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LD151310 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Violence in Territories—An IDF officer was wounded in a knife attack in the Gaza Strip 15 January and his assailant was shot dead, IDF radio reported. Earlier, an Arab resident in the Bethlehem area was killed while protesting IDF measures to remove livestock from an IDF firing range, according to Jerusalem radio. The radio also noted that hundreds of policemen would be deployed in East Jerusalem 15 January in preparation for Arab demonstrations to mark a day of mourning for those killed in the disturbances over recent weeks. Thirteen refugee camps in the "administered" territories remained under curfew, the radio added. On the Palestinian side, the new clandestine "Al-Quds" radio broadcast a statement by the "national command for the escalation of the uprising" urging Palestinians to commemorate their "martyrs" with "tumultuous popular demonstrations" 15 January. "Anyone who violates unanimity will find the cubs of the uprising lying in wait for him," the statement warned.

As for the arrests of Palestinian journalists, the television disclosed that Hanna Sinyurah and another man were released on bail after being interrogated on suspicion of affiliations with a terrorist organization. Two others were subsequently freed but another remains in custody, IDF radio revealed. According to Jerusalem radio, the journalists were arrested because of their intention to hold a news conference on the issue of civil disobedience.

Deportees in Lebanon—The four Palestinians deported from Israel announced their intention to begin living in a tent near the Israeli security zone and start a hunger strike, Beirut radio reported. Meanwhile, Israel rejected the UN Security Council resolution calling on it to take back the deportees and stop further deportations, Jerusalem radio noted. In Syria, Damascus radio viewed the deportation as evidence of Israel's intention to exile all Palestinians.

PLO Position—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's office issued an official denial of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' assertion that 'Arafat has called for negotiations with Peres and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Radio Monte Carlo reported. Describing the Israeli claims as part of an ongoing policy of "deception," the office emphasized the PLO's continued adherence to resolving the conflict through an international conference. Jerusalem television contrasted the PLO's call for an international conference with leaflets by Palestinian Islamic circles which reject the international conference idea and stress the need for "jihad" until Israel is destroyed. In a recent interview with Egypt's AL-AKHBAR, 'Arafat confirmed that the PLO does not favor military action against Israeli forces in the occupied territories. A recent PLO leadership decision "completely bans the use of weapons," he said, because if guns were used against the IDF, Israel would use this as "a pretext for committing a massacre."

Jordan

The United States will bear "terrible responsibility" if it continues in the same way in its policy on the Palestinian issue, King Husayn stated in a British television interview broadcast by Amman television. Warning that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is fast moving toward a situation where all hope is lost of achieving any "reasonable and lasting" solution, he said "Israel has to make its mind up very, very rapidly, but more so the United States." On the Israeli leaders, Husayn said it is "impossible to get anywhere" with Yitzhaq Shamir, whereas he acknowledged that Shim'on Peres "has been close to us in terms of our views, on what needs to be done."

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi Air Strikes—The Iraqi Air Force struck a large maritime target off the Iranian coast 14 January, a military spokesman told INA. Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio reported that a second successful strike was carried out 15 January.

'Zafar-5' Operations—Tehran radio reported "hundreds more" enemy casualties during a fifth failed Iraqi counteroffensive in the "Zafar-5" operational theater. The station added that IRGC forces were advancing on Al-'Amadiyah, having attained "complete supremacy" in the region.

Iran

Oil Pipeline—A protocol on the construction of a pipeline to carry Iranian crude oil to the Mediterranean Sea through Turkey was signed in the Turkish capital, Ankara radio reported. A Turkish Foreign Ministry official termed the project a "turning point" in bilateral relations.

New Aircraft Production—IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust indicated that a new aircraft produced by the Corps will begin test flights in February, Tehran radio reported. The minister added that other versions of this aircraft will be completed and in production by late March.

Exiles Return to France—Paris radio reported that 7 of the 15 Iranian and Turkish exiles expelled by the French Government to Gabon last month returned to France. The remaining 8 refugees are now in Spain.

Lebanon

The "Liberation Front" claimed responsibility for killing four Syrian officers, including a lieutenant colonel and a major, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Sudan

An Armed Forces General Command communique announced that government forces killed 250 rebels during an ambush on the road to Bahr al-Ghazal, southeast of Mayom, according to SUNA.

Islamic Affairs

ICO Denounces Israeli 'Official Terrorism'

LD141836 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Jeddah, 14 Jan (SPA)—The ICO has expressed deep concern at developments in the explosive situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In a statement announcing a day of Islamic solidarity with the Palestinian unrising set for tomorrow, 15 January 1988, the organization denounced the official terrorism practiced by the neo-Nazi Zionists against the Palestinain citizens in their land and homeland, Palestine.

The statement, which was announced by the organization's secretary general, Sharifuddin Pirzada, pleaded for God's mercy on the martyrs of the uprising among the sons of the Palestinian people who have fallen victim to Zionist treachery. The organization appealed to mosque preachers to remind Muslims of the meaning of Palestinian jihad, which is an extension of the previous jihad against the Zionist practices aimed at eliminating the Palestinian identity and dissolving the Islamic and Arab spirit.

It also urged preachers to make Muslims aware of the ugliness of the horrible Zionist crimes against the citizens in the occupied Palestinain territories and of the deportations, massacres, arbitrary administrative detentions, the expropriation of Palestinian land and property, violations of human rights, and the continuing aggressions against the Al-'Aqsa mosque, the Ibrahimi mosque, and against all the Islamic and Christian holy places throughout Palestine.

Pirzada appealed to the international community to carry out an official investigation under the auspices of the United Nations and the International Red Cross to determine the dimensions of the ugly crimes committed by the Zionist enemy against the Muslim Arab people in Palestine. He also urged the states of the world to apply pressure on the Zionist enemy, to condemn its terrorist policy against the unarmed Palestinian citizens, and to stop the killing and collective detention of children, women, the elderly, and students who call for withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian territories.

The organization has also called on the international community to make urgent efforts to convene an international peace conference along the lines recommended by the UN General Assembly—with the attendance of the permament members of the UN Security Council and with the participation of all the parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people—to establish a just, durable, and comprehensive peace in this sensitive part of the world.

Sharifuddin Pirzada, the ICO secretary general, has called on the Islamic and international mass media to adopt a sincere position in order to uncover official Zionist terrorism and to enlighten international and local public opinion on the realities of the aggressive Zionist authorities, the legitimacy of the Palestinian cause, and the struggle of the Palestinian people, as well as its uprising and its developing and escalating struggle in the face of Zionist arrogance and military rampage.

At the end of his statement, the ICO secretary general said: "I am addressing a sincere call to our generous Islamic nation, to its leaders, governments, and peoples, for more support, unlimited Islamic solidarity, and total support for the uprising of our Palestinian brothers inside the occupied territories.

"I also call on them for more material and moral support for the Palestinian revolution and the struggle of the heroic Palestinian people as they continue their legitimate struggle and regain their national inalienable rights, including the right to return to their homeland, the right to self-determination, and the right to establish an independent Palestinian state, with holy Jerusalem as the capital, under the chairmanship of their sole, legitimate representative, the PLO."

Palestinian Affairs

'National Command' Urges General Strike 15 Jan

JN141839 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1708 GMT 14 Jan 88

["Call No 2 issued by the National Command for the Escalation of the Uprising" on 13 January; place not given]

[Text] O masses of our great people. O people of martyrs, grandsons of Al-Qassam. O brothers and comrades of Abu Sharar, Khalid Nazzal, and Kanafani. O people of the uprising, which has been spreading from the roots of our homeland since 1936 and is escalating in a forceful way against the fascist occupation to scorch the land under the feet of its cowardly generals and soldiers. O heroes of the war of stones and Molotov cocktails: In escalation of our people's glorious uprising; out of loyalty to the pure blood of our people's martyrs; to promote the revolutionary epics written by the sons of Jabalyah, Balatah, 'Askar, Al-Maghazi, Al-Burayj, Qalandiyah, Al-Am'ari, Rafah, Khan Yunus, Al-Shati', Tulkarm, and all the camps, towns, and villages of Palestine, which are united in the daily war and rose against repression, terrorism, and the policy of deportation, mass detention, poison gas, tracked vehicles, and the closure of cities and camps; and to boost our firm and absolute cohesion with the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people, the Unified National Command calls on all national action and popular committees to step up the successful popular uprising. They must also develop its forms, as we saw in last Monday's general, comprehensive strike, by employing every means of revolutionary

escalation. They must also declare Friday, 15 January 1988, a day of unity and solidarity in commemoration of the martyrs of the uprising. This is to be a day of prayer and symbolic funerals for our martyrs, and of tumultuous popular demonstrations. Let us chant in a single resounding voice: We sacrifice our souls and blood for you, O martyrs. Our souls and blood for Palestine.

O youth of Palestine, O throwers of incendiary stones, clearly, the new fascists will be forced to admit the facts entrenched by your ferocious rebellion, which is charting a clear course toward a decisive form of national independence, enabling the flag of Palestine to flutter over the walls of holy Jerusalem.

O masses of the valiant Palestinian working class, let us get to work so as to make the general, comprehensive strike a success by stopping work on the designated days. Your pioneering proletarian role in our general uprising is the best answer to the threats and invective of the enemy authority and the best way to defeat its policy of racial discrimination and arbitrary action. You will thus declare your loyalty to the blood of the people's martyrs, which will compel the occupation authorities to reverse all their deportation orders, and wrest the freedom of our heroic prisoners.

O valiant strugglers, owners of shops, the most important slogans of the uprising are represented by an intensified struggle to abrogate all tax laws and measures. This makes it incumbent upon you to continue the rebellion alongside every other sector of our people—workers, peasants, students, and women. You should keep the national role you have played thus far at center stage. The people of the uprising will know how to protect honorable merchants, and when to severely punish anyone who seeks to trail behind the agents of the occupation authority.

O valiant sons of our people, drivers and owners of bus and taxi companies, your honorable national stand was clearly evident on the day of Palestinian steadfastness. We are confident that this position will be firm throughout the 3 days of the strike. We warn anyone who may break our spirit of unanimity that he will find the cubs of the uprising.

[Signed] The National Command for the Escalation of the Uprising

[Dated] 13 January 1988

Clashes Noted in Nabulus; 'Askar Under Curfew

JN151432 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1402 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] We have just received the following: The Zionist forces imposed a curfew on the new 'Askar Camp at 2130 yesterday following demonstrations there. Clashes are now taking place near the Grand Al-Salahi Mosque inside the old city of Nabulus.

Palestinian Factions Condemn Deportations

PFLP-GC Warns Israel

JN141959 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1750 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The Fatah Uprising Movement, the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, the PFLP, the DFLP, and the PFLP-GC have all issued statements condemning the deportation of fighters Jibril Mahmud al-Rajjub, Bashir Ahmad Khayri, Jamal Muhammad Jabarah, and 'Isam 'Uthman Muhammad. The most noteworthy point among these declarations is the press statement from the PFLP-GC, which held the Red Cross responsible for what happened. The following is the text of the statement:

Following the Zionist enemy's failure to suppress the mammoth popular revolution that is growing stronger by the day in Palestine in defiance of the enemy's methods and tools of repression, which include shootings and the use of internationally outlawed incendiary gas bombs against infants and pregnant women in their homes; and in light of the fact that every enemy measure has been unable to curb the tumultuous popular uprising, the Zionist enemy has deported four of our Palestinian people's strugglers to southern Lebanon. This was a desperate attempt to affect the morale of our people and prevent direct contact among their sons. The enemy thought this deportation would cancel out the popular revolution, which is deeply rooted in the Palestinian conscience of all our people, within Palestine and without.

Now that the enemy has taken this step, which will be added to its record of crime and inhumanity, and has deported certain fighters who were arrested previously and then released as part of the Galilee operation in the exchange of prisoners with the Front and under the auspices of the International Red Cross on 20 May 1985, we in the PFLP-GC request that the Red Cross contact the enemy officials and compel them to honor their commitment not to deport or arrest any prisoner freed in the Galilee exchange operation. The PFLP-GC will no longer trust the promises made to the Red Cross by the Zionist enemy or its leaders in any future exchange operation. The enemy will bear the consequences for this deportation in any new exchanges of prisoners. We emphasize once again that every measure taken by the Zionist enemy, regardless of how tough or repressive it may be, will only make our revolution and people more determined to continue their course and strengthen their belief in the inevitability of victory until our land and men are freed.

Fatah Provisional Command Cited

JN150840 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], secretary of the Fatah Movement's Provisional Command, has announced in Damascus that the Israeli authorities'

decision to deport several Palestinian fighters from occupied Palestine was not a surprising move by the Zionist entity. The Zionist enemy uses every available means to entrench its presence and consolidate its settlement scheme by Judaizing the Palestinian homeland and consigning the Palestinian people to oblivion.

In a statement to WAFA today, Col Abu Musa said that these deportation orders, as well as other Zionist attempts and designs, seek to undermine the steadfastness of our people in the occupied homeland and abort their heroic uprising against occupation.

Abu Musa said that this step reveals how acute the Zionist entity's dilemma has become as a result of the uprising, which is gaining momentum at home and abroad.

Abu Musa appealed for the mobilization of Palestinian national forces to perpetuate the revolution and continue our armed struggle, far from the programs of deviationists and defeatists. He also called on all Arab and foreign liberation forces and movements to assume their responsibility and resist every scheme designed to abort our people's uprising, and to decisively oppose the enemy's practices and measures.

PLO Seeks 'United' Stand From Arab Ministers

JN142008 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1816 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] According to PLO Executive Committee member Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, the PLO will ask the participants in the emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers in Tunis on 24 January to call for the deployment of an international peace-keeping force in the occupied Palestinian territories.

In a statement published yesterday in the Tunisian capital, Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh added that the PLO wants the Arab League to ask the UN Security Council to send forces to the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This action should be taken when the foreign ministers meet to discuss ways of supporting the heroic uprising staged by our people against Zionist occupation. He pointed out that the PLO will also appeal for a united Arab position calling on the UN Security Council to impose sanctions on the Zionist entity due to its repressive measures in the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Arab League has set 24 January as the date for an emergency meeting of its ministerial council. The participants will also examine the general situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and ways to support the continuing uprising of our Palestinian people against the hateful occupation. In addition, the council will discuss the possibility of drafting an Arab plan to oppose the repressive Zionist measures against the Palestinian people.

Radio Views 'Lazy' Arab Response to Uprising

LD142104 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Jan 88

["Political Analysis"]

[Text] The uprising of our people in revolutionary Palestine has entered its 6th week without stopping for a single moment. If Palestinian blood has defeated the Zionist war machine, and swept all before it through its dignity and pride, one may also speak of other blood, cold blood. This is largely the blood of lazy cells, which flows slowly and calmly through the veins of Arab foreign ministers. They are the ones who said, despite the urgent call from Libya, that their emergency meeting would be held on the 24th of this month.

Apparently, Arab diplomatic leaders calmly exaggerate, giving the results of their meeting some importance, especially since they are all absolutely convinced that no such gathering will add to the stones used by our people—not a single stone, rifle, tank, or plane. Those who did not move to help the Palestinians in Lebanon in 1982 will not do so in Palestine in 1988. We believe that the complacent excuses are stronger now, after revelations that the Zionist entity has dozens of atomic bombs. It is impossible that [words indistinct] might stand after now.

We expected a moral and ethical stance by the leaders of Arab diplomacy. Their position might not be boiling hot, but it should at least be warm, and not insolent in its coldness. We expected that some Arab official would have at least met the standard of Mr Mario Capanna, an Italian parliamentarian, who is continuing a hunger strike in solidarity with the Palestinian Arab people's uprising in the occupied territories against the Zionist occupation.

However, the Arab position, which contradicts and opposes the stance of Mario Capanna, our true friend, is represented by the truth of the official Arab stance toward our people's uprising in the occupied territories. It is represented still further by the bloody acts of aggression carried out by agents of the Amal Movement against our Palestinian people in the heroic camp of Shatila in the Beirut suburbs.

However, not to paint too gloomy a picture, we recall the fierce demonstrations staged by our brothers, the sons of the Egyptian people, despite the shackles of Camp David. The streets of Egypt were the scene of an uprising, more or less similar to the events on the streets of Gaza. We also recall the fierce protests staged by our brothers, the sons of the Syrian people, under Zionist occupation in the Golan Heights. They followed the Palestinian example in fighting the Zionist enemy.

For their part, though, no Arab diplomat, not just those of Egypt or Syria, showed the bravery of British Minister David Mellor, and no Arab parliamentarian, even if we assume there are some, has a heart in his chest like that of the Italian parliamentarian, Mario Capanna.

The meaning of all this is clear and obvious. However, we only remind those theoreticians who believe in the slogan of strategic parity, and those who beg for some solution through pressure from their master, Washington, that Israel's nuclear bombs were damaged by the Palestinian human bomb, and that the air of Palestine is stronger than any gas imported from the United States. The lungs of a Palestinian, full of the air of his country, can resist the enemy's poison, regardless of its form or the aggressive methods employed.

We expect absolutely nothing from the extremely urgent conference of Arab foreign ministers. But something will happen—something the diplomatic mind had not thought of, as the stones of Palestine are part of the greater Arab homeland, and part of this one land. We feel as if we are seeing it shake off the dust itself, for the sake of those who are vanquished, who can see but not act, but have hearts full of faith and bodies dedicated to the comprehensive fight. When one stone struck another, we saw the first spark, from which the fire of earth arose to burn and to light, if you all care to know.

PLO on Israeli Attempts To 'Distort' Stands

JN142029 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1816 GMT 14 Jan 88

["Text" of statement by "official" PLO spokesman; date and place not given]

[Text] Attempts by Israeli officials to distort the PLO's stands have become frequent. Their efforts are designed to undermine the solidarity and positions of our people in the occupied Palestinian territories, who are valiantly resisting Israel's hateful occupation.

The PLO reiterates its unchanging position, which stipulates that a peaceful solution can be achieved through an effective international conference under UN auspices. Such a gathering would be attended by the five permanent members of the UN Security Council with the participation of the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative, on an equitable basis and equal footing with all parties to the regional conflict.

'Arafat Commments on Uprising, Ties With Egypt

JN141030 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Jan 88 p 4

[Report on interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Wajih Abu Dhikri in Baghdad; date not given]

[Text] Baghdad—I had an appointment with him at noon, but he asked to postpone it until the evening. Perhaps something new will come out of Yasir 'Arafat's meeting with an Egyptian parliamentary delegation visiting Baghdad. I said: When will I see you? He replied: After midnight. I waited in my hotel. The phone rang at 0100. The speaker on the other end was a PLO security official, who said he was waiting for me in the lobby. I got into the car with the security official and we drove through the streets of Baghdad, which were deserted at that late hour. We reached our destination, and the security official stood at the entrance to the building. I got out of the car. Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, welcomed me and accompanied me to an operations room devoted to the popular uprising. This is where 'Arafat personally supervises actions in support of the rebellion. As usual, his welcome was warm. His high level of activity was also typical, despite the hard day's work he had put in at official meetings, and at sessions of the PLO Central Council. The place contained many pieces of communications equipment linked to every part of the world. A cable came in from Gaza before the interview began. How did it get there? That is one of the PLO's secrets. The cable read: Urgent; Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]: The enemy continues to round up thousands of youths in Gaza. They are now in town squares under heavy enemy guard. Unfortunately, a heavy rain is falling in Gaza. Enemy soldiers are giving our young men barbaric treatment. Israeli trucks have arrived to transfer the young men to an as yet unknown destination.

Abu 'Ammar was disturbed by the message, and spoke on the phone with Sa'id Kamal, the PLO's representative in Cairo. He said to him: Tell the Egyptians what is going on in Gaza. He read him the cable that arrived shortly before, adding: Tell our Egyptian brothers that the situation in the Gaza Strip is quite critical. Then he called the Palestinian representative at the United Nations. He aksed him to brief the UN secretary general on the gravity of conditions in the Gaza Strip, and to tell him that the Israeli authorities have rejected every international appeal.

Abu 'Ammar had this to say about his call to Cairo: I contacted Egypt first, as it is morally and politically responsible for the Gaza Strip. I got in touch with the United Nations because of its obligation to alert the international community to events in those areas, and to force Israel to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross to go in.

I asked Abu 'Ammar: How can one support the Palestinian people's uprising?

Abu 'Ammar replied: I am not supporting the uprising; I am entrenching it. Our people in the occupied territories are waging a battle that is vitally important and extremely sensitive.

I asked: How can one protect this popular uprising so as to prevent any recurrence of the tragedy that affected the revolution in Palestine between 1936 and 1939?

He explained: We have employed calculated tactics against the enemy in the occupied territories. We do not call the events taking place there an uprising. Rather, they are waves that arise from one place, subside, and then reappear somewhere else. This will continue until the day these waves are spread throughout Palestine. Abu 'Ammar paused for a moment, then said: Let me tell you about the Palestinian miracle. We have once again achieved cohesion among the various Palestinian factions, as the residents of the territories occupied in 1948 are now participating with their brothers in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and the refugee camps in Lebanon.

Abu 'Ammar noted: These revolutionary waves did not start now. Indeed, they began on 24 October 1986. At that time, the situation in the Palestinian camps was critical. Our people took to the streets, staging angry demonstrations in Jerusalem. The uprising has not abated since then.

I asked: You have no fears of a setback?

He answered: I do not think so, at least not so long as we have cohesion between our people in and outside the occupied territories and the Palestinian people's command.

Then I put this question to him: What are your demands at this point? Are you calling for the protection of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories?

He replied: First of all, I am asking for international protection until the occupation ends, then I want civil and political rights, and, finally, an international conference. He added: I am convinced that there can be no solution without an international conference.

I told him: The next stage is critical, and I fear that Israel will make use of it to massacre the Palestinian people.

He remarked: I called for an urgent expanded meeting of the PLO Executive Committee, the occupied territories affairs committee, and the military council. On 9 January, we made a decision completely baning the use of weapons. I fear that a revolutionary whose brother was killed would use arms available in the West Bank and Gaza to kill some Israeli soldiers. Israel would then employ this as an excuse for a massacre. He added: We made another decision restricting military operations from southern Lebanon to those actions launched against Israeli military targets.

Abu 'Ammar noted: Israel made us a new offer after the uprising and the escalation of military operations from southern Lebanon. They asked us to reactivate the 1981 decision, the decision on a cease-fire, which Saudi Arabia reached with Philip Habib when it was representing the PLO and he was representing Israel. We honored that decision. However, Israel attacked us a year later on the pretext of the attempted assassination of its ambassador in London.

I asked: What was your reply?

Abu 'Ammar said nothing. Then we moved on to the American position.

He stated: There is an Israeli-U.S. conspiracy to abort this uprising. I regret to say that many of our writers have fallen victim to it. The plot seeks to distinguish between the people in and outside the occupied territories and to portray this uprising as something without roots. This uprising is the result of past accumulations and the cohesion between the Palestinian people within the occupied territories and without, including our people in those lands seized in 1948. This is the start of the conspiracy, the attempt to divide the Palestinian people into groups.

I pointed out: But the United States, for the first time, voted in favor of a resolution condemning Israel.

He said: Let's be fair. Israel's odious actions against the inhabitants of the occupied territories have had a great effect on the American public. That forced the President to declare: Even if Israel pays no attention to its international reputation, we are still concerned about that reputation. However, the United States has yet to explicitly denounce Israel.

Abu 'Ammar continued: I will tell you the story of America's vote against Israel. We took advantage of the opportunity posed by the White House spokesman's statement that Washington opposes the decision to deport the leaders of the uprising. We submitted a draft resolution to the Security Council that condemned Israel without attaching any political demands. The United States had no choice but to condemn Israel in the Security Council after the White House spokesman condemned it in his statement.

I asked: Abu 'Ammar, how can we move toward an international conference? At the start of our talk, you said there could be no solution without it.

He answered: Let's be frank. If we drop the military option, there will be no international conference. He who gives up the military option will not survive. We have never interrupted our military operations in order to get an international conference. Rather, we are stepping up our military actions against Israeli military zones.

Our conversation was interrupted at this point for some time. Fighter Al-Tayib 'Abd al-Rahim, director of the PLO office in the SFRY, contacted Yasir 'Arafat from Belgrade. Al-Tayib told 'Arafat that the SFRY Government was following events in the Gaza Strip with great concern. He added that the SFRY Foreign Ministry had been in touch with its UN representative, and had instructed him to communicate the SFRY's regret at, and denunciation of Israel's actions to the UN secretary general. He also told 'Arafat that the SFRY Foreign

Ministry would support any Arab move in international forums. In addition, 'Abd al-Rahim told 'Arafat of the SFRY's backing for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories.

The phone call ended, and our talk resumed. I said: Let's go back to the uprising and the influence it has had on the peace forces in Israel.

Abu 'Ammar noted: I will tell you a story about something that took place in Israel, something which the Israeli Government tried to shroud in secrecy. Twenty-eight Israeli officers and 161 Israeli soldiers have held several news conferences announcing their refusal to work in the West Bank or Gaza Strip. There were demonstrations calling for a withdrawal from the occupied territories. Then there was a panel discussion on Saturday involving three Israeli generals—Harkabi, Saq [as published], and 'Amit. When the discussion was over, two of the generals had called for a political solution, while the third came out in favor of an iron-fist policy. Harcady apologized for what he had written in his book, "Fateful Options," which proposed an iron-fist policy. He said that the biggest mistake of his life was inciting the Israeli people with false slogans.

'Arafat then remarked: Through my discussions and meetings with members of Israel's peace forces, I can say that the peace forces there are becoming more and more important.

I noted: Some Likud members say that peace will be fatal for Israel and will transform it from a young state into one that any army can penetrate, in other words, a Middle Eastern state. Would you care to comment?

He said: The arrogance of any power has its end, and this applies to Israel's belligerence, as well. I would like to tell the Likud forces: O pedants and peacocks, can you give me one historical example of a state that was established and survived on military force and belligerence? I would also like to ask them: Where are Hitler, Mussolini, the Franks, and the Tartars? They are swimming against the tide. The arrogant forces in Israel have cast aside everyone who is concerned about the Jewish people. Israel's arrogant leaders have rejected the enlightened and mature views advanced by Nahum Goldman, Mendes-France, Kreisky, and Harkabi, all of whom have called for peace.

I asked: How can their arrogance be stopped?

'Arafat replied: With another Massada. We are going with the course of history, and they are going against it.

Then I asked: What is your message for the inhabitants of the occupied territories?

'Arafat answered: I would like to say this to the generals of the stones: When John Foster Dulles outlined the Eisenhower doctrine on the vacuum in the Middle East in 1957, he was asked why he had not mentioned the Palestinians as one of the peoples living in the Middle East. He replied that, unfortunately, they were like ants under the feet of an elephant. He also said that the generation that knew Palestine would die, and that another, one that had nothing to do with it, would emerge. I would like to tell our people in the occupied territories: You are now replying to John Foster Dulles. You are the ant that killed the elephant.

This time, our interview was interrupted by a telephone call from Cairo. The speaker was Sa'id Kamal, the PLO's representative there. Kamal told Yasir 'Arafat that he had contacted the Presidency and the Foreign Ministry and had presented a detailed report on the situation, be it on the roundup of young Palestinians in public squares or their forced rides in trucks to destinations unknown. Kamal explained that officials in Egypt were following Israel's repressive measures with great concern, and that they would take the necessary measures to counter them.

At this point, I said: Now, Abu 'Ammar, tell me about Egyptian-Palestinian relations. I know you have a soft spot for Egypt.

He replied: Our ties are historic. My happiest days were at the university, when I joined my Egyptian brothers in guerrilla warfare against the British near the canal. My days as an Egyptian officer back in 1956 were some of the happiest. The Palestinian people have much to thank Egypt for. Egypt must take credit for the Palestinian people's educational revolution. At any one time, we have 25,000 Palestinian students in Egyptian schools and universities. The first Palestinian army was created and trained by Egypt; it is now spearheading the Palestinian armed struggle. Palestinians first enrolled in military academies in Egypt.

I said: Can you tell me about your talks yesterday with Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub, speaker of the Egyptian People's Assembly?

Abu 'Ammar explained: We discussed general Arab developments. I expressed my opposition to the resumption of relations with Egypt in the way we have seen. However, I do support Egypt's return to the Arab League. I noted that certain Arab parties do not want Egypt back in the Arab League and back as leader of our nation.

I asked why.

Abu 'Ammar pointed out: To prevent Egypt from exposing them and to be able to speak on its behalf. Egypt's return to the Arab League would restore a balance they find unfavorable.

Then I asked about the pretext of Camp David.

Abu 'Ammar answered: Camp David is the concern of the Arabs, not Egypt. The Arab nation would do well to learn that there can be no balance without Egypt, no victory without Egypt, no peace without Egypt, and no war without Egypt.

I declared: There were two options up for study at the Amman summit. One called on Egypt to exercise its membership and role in the Arab League, and the second, feeble one left it up to the Arab countries to decide the matter individually. What is the truth?

He said: During an Arab tour I made before the summit, we agreed on Egypt's full reinstatement to the Arab League. Our Arab brothers welcomed this. At the Amman summit, we discussed Egypt's return to the Arab League, and I argued the case in favor, as did Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, whose address is part of the record of the conference. We decided to vote for Egypt's return to the league. Abu 'Ammar paused for a moment, and then continued: We were about to decide on Egypt's reinstatement, when Jordan claimed that Egypt did not want to return to the Arab League.

I asked: Why did it not return?

He replied: So they can take what they want from Egypt without making any commitments.

I asked: When will you visit Cairo?

Abu 'Ammar responded: I would like to meet with President Mubarak after he returns from his Gulf tour and before he goes to Washington.

Then one of the many telephones in the room rang. The speaker on the other end was an African head of state. A short while later a message came from the occupied territories, saying: Save the population of the Gaza camps; Israeli tanks have stormed the facilities. Abu 'Ammar then resumed his contacts and renewed his appeal to the conscience of the world. By now it was 0600, and fatigue had taken its toll on me. I left Abu 'Ammar in the whirlwind, shouting on the telephone, and calling on every human being on the globe to help save the Palestinian people from the repression of the 20th century Tartars.

Algeria

Messaadia, Sudan's Al-Nasri Hold Talks 13 Jan

LD141205 Algiers APS in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Algiers, 14 Jan (APS)—A Sudanese delegation on an official visit to Algeria held political talks with an FLN delegation at the party headquarters yesterday. The meeting was cochaired by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, and Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the Sudanese State Council.

The talks included a review of the FLN experience throughout its historical stages, as well as the Sudanese party experience since Sudan's independence in 1956. The two reports highlighted the political and social contents of the political movement in the two countries.

The talks also covered the relations of friendship between the two countries and the bonds of brotherhood existing between the two fraternal peoples, as these bonds could reinforce and expand relations in various fields, the two reports concluded.

The Algerian experience at its various stages caught the interest of the Sudanese delegation. Bilateral relations and the present situation in Sudan were among the main topics of these talks, which were held in a fraternal and friendly atmosphere.

Messaadia Receives Nigerian, PRC Delegations

LD141206 Algiers APS in Arabic 0850 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Algiers, 14 Jan (APS)—Mr Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee, received a Nigerian delegation headed by Alhaji Muhammadu Gambo, member of the Armed Forces Ruling Council and inspector general, at the party headquarters yesterday afternoon. The delegation is on an official visit to Algeria.

The meeting was attended by Sadek Zouaten, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee in charge of the Council of Solidarity and Friendship, and Abdelmadjid Bouzbib, alternate member of the Central Committee and director general of national security.

The meeting was an opportunity for the two sides to review several aspects of bilateral relations. The Nigerian delegation also praised Algeria's stands on the international scene and its efforts with regard to domestic policy, hailing this as a pioneering experience.

The Nigerian delegation was also received yesterday by General Mustapha Cheloufi, member of the Central Committee and secretary general of the Defense Ministry. [passage omitted]

Yesterday afternoon Messaadia also received the members of a Chinese delegation, who are on an official visit to our country at the invitation of the FLN, at the party headquarters. The delegation is being led by Zhu Liang, member of the Central Committee and head of the International Liaison Department of the Chinese Communist Party's Central Committee. [passage omitted]

Ibrahimi Receives Zhu Liang

LD142012 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, today received Zhu Liang, member of the Central Committee and head of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party, who is currently paying a visit to Algeria.

The meeting, which was attended by Abderrazak Bouhara, member of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee in charge of foreign relations, included discussion on political relations and cooperation between Algeria and the PRC, as well as international issues of mutual interest.

Zhu Liang held a news conference today in which he noted the following in particular: My visit to Algeria allowed me, and my accompanying delegation, to see on the spot the progress achieved by the Algerian people in all fields under the leadership of President Chadli Bendjedid and the Algerian political leadership.

As for the relations between the FLN and the PRC Communist Party, Zhu Liang said that they go back to the beginning of the national liberation war, fought by the Algerian people against colonialism. He added that the ties between the two parties had remained strong through the years by virtue of the visits exchanged between officials of the two countries, especially that paid by President Chadli Bendjedid, which allowed these relations to reach their highest level. The stances of the two countries toward major international issues are identical.

Council of Ministers Reports on Bendjedid Tour

LD132203 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] The Council of Ministers today released a report on the results of the friendly working visit by the president of the Republic to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Tunisia, noting with satisfaction the positive effects of the visit for strengthening Maghreb economic integration. The Council of Ministers expressed its pleasure at the new stages that these two visits will make possible in the process leading to the implementation of the great Arab Maghreb.

This is the spirit of the two messages sent today by the head of state to President Zine El Abidine of Tunisia and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi of Libya. The messages express the head of state's satisfaction at the warm welcome accorded to him in Tunisia and Libya, where he has just made official visits. He also expressed satisfaction at the fruitful results of these visits, both in the sphere of economic cooperation and in the political talks held within the framework of building the great Arab Maghreb.

Chad

Libyan Air Force Continues Bardai Overflights

AB141951 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Libya has never stopped impeding all our efforts at peace. Proof of this can be seen in the fact that since the proclamation of cease-fire on 11 September 1987, not a single day has passed without Libya (?disturbing) us, either through its military operations [words indistinct] or by the overflight of Chadian airspace. Thus, Libyan Air Force planes this morning flew over Bardai twice, at 0730 and 1030 [0830 and 1130 GMT] respectively.

French Soldier Killed, 1 Wounded in Mine Mishap

AB141316 Paris AFP in French 1258 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Paris, 14 Jan (AFP)—A French soldier from the 6th Foreign Engineers Regiment was killed this morning in Chad and another one was wounded when their vehicle was blown up by a mine, the headquarters of the Army has announced. The accident took place during a mine-clearing operation to the north of Faya-Largeau. One of the casualties died shortly after the accident while the other was immediately evacuated to Ndjamena, the headquarters communique explained. However, it did not disclose the identities of the victims.

BBC on Removing Libyan Mines

AB142056 London BBC World Service in English 1615 GMT 14 Jan 88

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Even though the conflict in northern Chad has died down since last year's defeat of Libyan forces by Chadian troops with French backup, casualties continue. Early today, a French soldier was killed and another wounded while they were clearing Libyan mines around the northern oasis of Faya-Largeau, once a Libyan stronghold. Our West Africa correspondent Elizabeth Blunt has been to Faya-Largeau since its recapture. Robin White asked her how extensive the mine field was.

[Begin recording] [Blunt] Well, the mine field was put in place all the way round Faya-Largeau during the time when it was held by the Libyans. It is a very difficult place to control and they obviously wanted to check who is going in and out of the town. The town is in the middle of a huge oasis with miles and miles of palm trees in the middle of the desert, and it is so easy normally for people to sneak in and out so what they did was they put a belt of mines right the way round Faya-Largeau. There are only certain marked entrances for people to go in and out and that is why they channeled all their traffic through those places and could check exactly what was going on.

[White] Were land mines there going off while you were there?

[Blunt] Well, the local inhabitants were very upset about this because these were laid in and among the palm trees, and the palm trees are their main livelihood—the date palm. They were complaining that they couldn't go to collect the date from the palms in the season because it was too dangerous, and they were also complaining that their animals—their donkeys and their camels—were being blown up by mines if they strayed into the wrong area. So they were very keen for these mines to be cleared; and that was one of the things that the French were off to do. But it was obviously going to be a long job because it is a very large area, and I am told that because they were laid in loose sand, the mines move. So even if they had some Libyan prisoners who could tell them where the mines were laid, they wouldn't necessarily still find them in the same place. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak To Visit Iraq, Jordan Shortly

NC142148 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM has reported that President Husni Mubarak is expected to visit Iraq and Jordan in the next few days. In tomorrow's edition, the paper says that during his Gulf tour President Mubarak made several contacts with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn of Jordan.

AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Analyzes Mubarak Tour

NC150952 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0720 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM affirms that President Husni Mubarak's trip to the Gulf states continues to produce very good results in various fundamental spheres. The most important result is the affirmation of Egypt's central role in the Arab world and the special relations that exist between Egypt and the fraternal Gulf states, which are important in formulating genuine Arab solidarity.

In an analysis written by Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' today, AL-AHRAM says that there are several important points which must be taken into consideration when analyzing the results of President Mubarak's tour of the Gulf states and the impact his tour will have in the

coming months. The first point is that neither Iraq nor any of the Gulf states the president visited asked Egypt to send military forces, as the dangers facing these states do not demand this. Instead, Egypt can contribute to strengthening the feeling of security in the Gulf area through a number of measures, contacts, and positions not involving the dispatch of Egyptian military forces.

The writer adds that informed circles in the Gulf believe that if a radical change were to take place which demanded a reconsideration of the situation on the front, Egyptian action would be commensurate with the existing danger. These same circles believe that it would only be natural for Egypt and its Arab sisters to confer and to reassess the situation.

The paper says that the second point is that Egypt has actually not asked for any financial assistance or grants during this tour. However, an agreement has been reached that allows Egypt to benefit once again from the services of the Gulf development funds and investment companies, the capital of which approximates $18 billion.

The paper adds that Egypt will submit several projects in the coming weeks to these funds for their study and financing in order to speed up Egypt's rate of development. It has also been agreed to establish joint investment companies between Egypt and some of the Gulf states to finance Egyptian imports. Further agreement was reached to faciliate investment operations in Egypt, particularly in tourism for leisure and medical purposes, land reclamation projects, and other related projects.

AL-AHRAM says that several important decisions are expected to be issued in Cairo within the next few weeks that will make it easier for Arab investors to acquire residency and to own apartments in Egypt.

AL-AHRAM says that the last point of the analysis of the results of President Mubarak's tour is that all sides have become convinced that a force capable of defending the Arab homeland's gains is one that is planned, established, and supported by a group of partners and not by a single party. All sides have also realized that it is essential for Egypt to be one of these partners because of its experience and its regional and international weight.

The paper adds that the presence of Saudi Arabia and Egypt in one trench defending values constitutes a protective shield and support for regional stability. It emphasizes that Egypt's strength will grow if it is given the opportunity to mobilize its capacities and if development growth averages rise. The paper says that this could be achieved through cooperation between Arab finance establishments and banks.

Concluding its analysis, AL-AHRAM asserts: The formulation of relations whereby all parties offer something is the way stable, long-term relations are established and friendly relations are developed. Therefore, all must seek to consolidate common interests.

Libya Offers Help in Freeing Prisoners in Iran

PM151159 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 13 Jan 88 p 9

[Unattributed report: "Libyan Proposal To Free Egyptian Prisoners"]

[Text] AL-MAJALLAH has learned that the Egyptian Government has received a proposal from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to help settle the issue of Egyptian prisoners in Iran as part of a political deal comprising their exchange for a number of prisoners in Iraq.

Al-Qadhdhafi's letter, carried by a Libyan envoy to Cairo a few days ago, indicated that Libya is prepared to play a "big role" with Iran in the freeing of the Egyptians in exchange for Baghdad's release of a number of prisoners, including Libyans.

USSR's AAPSO Committee Chairman Arrives

NC142224 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2150 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—Chairman of the Soviet AAPSO Committee [as received] Mikhail Kapitsa arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit of several days.

During his visit, the Soviet official will attend AAPSO meetings and participate in celebrations marking the 30th anniversary of the organization. He was met at the airport by Soviet Ambassador to Cairo Gennadiy K. Zhuravlev.

CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 14 Jan

NC142208 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2145 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Cairo, 14 Jan (MENA)—CSSR Deputy Foreign Minister Roman Narozny and an accompanying delegation arrived in Cairo this evening for a visit of several days. During his stay in Cairo, the CSSR official will hold talks with senior Foreign Ministry officials.

He was received at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Wafa' Hijazi and CSSR Ambassador to Cairo Milos Vesely.

Communists, Fundamentalists Accused of Violence

NC150707 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr has accused a few Communists and Muslim fundamentalists of attempting to exploit events in the West Bank and Gaza sector to carry out chaotic actions in Egypt.

It should be recalled that 2 days ago violent demonstrations were staged in the streets around Cairo's 'Ayn Shams University to protest Israel's methods of dealing with conditions in the West Bank and Gaza.

Muslim Brotherhood Outlines Aims, Methods

PM131701 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 11 Jan 88 p 10

[Interview with Muslim Brotherhood General Guide Hamid Abu al-Nasr by Mahmud Sadiq in London; date not given]

[Text] [Sadiq] Muslim Brotherood activity is characterized by what may be called "ebb and flow," in that at times it is noticeable and felt everywhere while at other times it is frozen and silent, or so it seems to a distant observer. The current period is one of intense activity, although it appears to be restricted to the political field, including the evident presence in the Egyptian People's Assembly. Permit me to ask: Does this shift in activity, from the street and from the religious field to the People's Assembly, mean that the group has abandoned its principles and objectives?

[Abu al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood group was founded on Islam, which does not separate religion from politics. From the day it was formed, it has worked in all fields—political, religious, social, and economic. The truth is that the enemies of the Islamic call stood between the Muslim brothers and their group, which was formed about 60 years ago, when they decided to dissolve it and ban its various activities. The brotherhood, as advocate of the mission of Islam, had to think of ways of preaching the Islamic call and of finding a way out of this iron shackle. That thinking led it to join in with other parties in order to get into the People's Assembly, the official institution that combines all views and trends. It achieved that objective and entered the People's Assembly under the canopy of certain parties with which we formed an alliance, on the condition that these parties would maintain their own ideology and that the Muslim Brotherhood would also maintain its own ideology to ensure the success of the Islamic call.

What happened during the elections and is continuing to this day is no more than an alliance. Contrary to what some people think, it is not a merger. The Muslim Brotherhood has been very successful in that respect because it now has around 40 deputies in the Egyptian People's Assembly, saying whatever they like and opposing any view that runs contrary to Islam or is in collusion with the sinister imperialists. Judging by the Assembly's minutes and press reports, the brotherhood has largely succeeded in doing that.

[Sadiq] Every once in a while reports appear about the end of the alliance between you and the opposition parties. Is it true that the sole aim was to get into the People's Assembly?

[Abu al-Nasr] Of course not. We have laid down rules and foundations for the alliance, and we all abide by them—parties and Muslim Brotherhood. Also, the Muslim Brotherhood has its own exclusive principles and so do the parties, but we are all agreed on the implementation of the Islamic Shari'a and the promotion of various freedoms such as freedom of speech and freedom of assembly. We proceed on that path in full, solid cohesion with the parties with which we are allied.

[Sadiq] What about your own studies on the implementation of the Islamic Shari'a?

[Abu al-Nasr] Actually, the authorities do not seem to be interested in demonstrating an interest in implementing the Islamic Shari'a. Instead, they are proposing another idea—the revision of all laws, and the elimination of those which are not in harmony with the Islamic Shari'a. That is what Egyptian officials have said. The matter is now being studied by a special committee in the People's Assembly. The Islamic alliance is tackling all these obstacles and will not stop doing so until its efforts bear fruit, whatever the cost. As Muslims, the officials are not really against implementation of the Islamic Shari'a; it is just that there are pressures here and there to delay its implementation. In the end, however, only what is right prevails; everything else disappears.

[Sadiq] But do you not agree with me that most current laws are in line with the Islamic Shari'a?

[Abu al-Nasr] Not all the laws reflect the Islamic Shari'a. All we ask is that the authorities declare that they agree to implement the Islamic Shari'a. The actual implementation could then begin gradually and quietly until full implementation of the Islamic Shari'a is achieved. To give you some examples, under Islam alcoholic drinks were banned in three stages and slavery in several stages. What is important is that rectification of the laws should begin.

[Sadiq] Have you put your ideas on paper and submitted them to the authorities, or are they still just demands and aspirations?

[Abu al-Nasr] There can be no doubt that the Muslim Brotherhood has covered many issues. It has even drawn up an Islamic constitution. As regards the laws, the

People's Assembly special committee is still studying all aspects of the matter. That committee includes members from the Islamic Alliance, but no final decision has been reached yet.

[Sadiq] What are the main features of your Islamic constitution?

[Abu al-Nasr] It is no different from all the world's constitutions when it comes to organizing the various state authorities, the rights of citizens, and the assumption of power. The clear difference, apart from our constitution taking everything back to its Islamic origin, is that while all the world's constitutions state that power stems from the people and that the people can apply laws which may violate God's laws if that is what they want, Islam maintains that the difference between right and wrong is quite clear, that everyone must obey the rules of Islam and God's law, not man's choice.

[Sadiq] I have heard that you intend to apply to the Egyptian parties committee for the formation of a new party if the courts do not restore the [Muslim Brotherhood] group's legitimacy. Allow me to ask a question related to the basis of the Muslim Brotherhood movement. Did you not originally object to the very idea of parties? Why are you seeking to form your own party? Has there been a change in your position, or is this merely a matter of political tactics?

[Abu al-Nasr] It is not a question of parties. The Muslim Brotherhood is a group, a body, and the party is one of its platforms and means. We are at present awaiting the verdict of the courts. A date—23 February 1988—has now been set for the pronouncement of that verdict. At any rate, the Muslim Brotherhood now does not object to the formation of parties. Parties these days differ in their methods from the parties of the past. Furthermore, Islam welcomes differences of opinion so long as right prevails in the end. We will be compelled to seek to form a political party if return of the Muslim Brotherhood is not permitted. We will form our party in accordance with the current laws of the land. What is important is the spirit in which laws are applied—the Islamic spirit. The Muslim Brotherhood lawyers are now drafting a program on which the party will be founded, and the group will submit it to the parties committee if the courts refuse to restore the group or body.

[Sadiq] What domains would the party activities cover?

[Abu al-Nasr] The domains allowed under the law.

[Sadiq] What are you doing at present, apart from your political activity in the People's Assembly?

[Abu al-Nasr] We do not separate religion from politics.

[Sadiq] What about cooperation with other Islamic groups in Egypt?

[Abu al-Nasr] They are in the nature of relations between Muslims. They are good relations. We wish all the groups working in the Islamic field success. We do not antagonize anyone. The Islamic field is vast for anyone seeking to serve Islam.

[Sadiq] Is there no coordination?

[Abu al-Nasr] There is no coordination. Each group follows its own program, principles, and methods.

[Sadiq] Do you approve of their principles and ideas?

[Abu al-Nasr] The Muslim Brotherhood does not believe in renouncing a ruler, a subject, or anyone who upholds the two vows of Islam [to God and the prophet]. As regards the incidents that have occurred, one cannot judge them without knowing the motives. These become known during the investigations and the trials. If the motive is noble, then we have no objection, but if the motive is criminal, then we do not approve. For example, fighting to outlaw sex videos is a noble motive for young men who rise to prevent such things from entering homes and being seen by everyone.

[Sadiq] Even if the objection was demonstrated by setting stores on fire?

[Abu al-Nasr] Arson is not a successful way. Requesting the government to implement the law would be a successful way, because there are firm laws but they are not implemented.

[Sadiq] From what you are saying, it seems to me that the Muslim Brotherhood has changed some of the principles laid down by the late Shaykh Hasan al-Banna. Is that true?

[Abu al-Nasr] The principles are the same. They are deep-rooted and have not changed. The change is in the methods—which is permissible in pursuit of the objectives approved in accordance with the bases and foundations laid down by the group and its founder, the martyr Imam Hasan al-Banna.

[Sadiq] Since you have condoned work in the political field and since your work is at present on the side of the opposition, have you considered forming a shadow cabinet?

[Abu al-Nasr] We have not considered that because the general atmosphere is not conducive to the establishment of an Islamic state. We are like the Muslims of Mecca in the early days, when they did not have the ability to establish an Islamic state. When the prophet flew to holy Medina, he managed to do that. The most important thing is to work for the implementation of the Islamic Shari'a, and to try to persuade the authorities to abolish the freedom-restricting laws such as the ethics law and the emergency law. Implementation of the

Islamic Shari'a is the basis. Everything can be done on that basis, from education to the methods of government. Islam should govern all aspects of activity. That is what we ask for.

[Sadiq] Are there likely to be any changes in the group's organizational structure in the next phase?

[Abu al-Nasr] The group does not have an organization. What we do have is a sympathy, a rallying around a certain idea for which we struggle. At present we carry out our activities in the People's Assembly, which is the legitimate place for that. I should emphasize that the brotherhood is an idea and a program that individuals are convinced of, and is available to everyone who believes in it.

[Sadiq] But I am asking about an organizational structure that does not run contrary to the work practices.

[Abu al-Nasr] Why, if we had an organization, would we ask the government or the judiciary to give us our group back. We are now trying to form a political party or restore the group and thus work through a particular organization.

[Sadiq] Is the Muslim Brotherhood not active outside Egypt?

[Abu al-Nasr] The activity of the brotherhood in all the Arab states is confined to preaching good and shunning evil and to avoiding differences. It would only impede the call and encourage imperialism to promote internal disputes and conflicts. In this day and age we need unity of ranks and solidarity in the face of the Israeli entity, which has been wreaking havoc in the Middle East.

[Sadiq] Is there organized work between these groups and the parent group in Cairo?

[Abu al-Nasr] There is no official organization, but rather a harmony of feelings and agreement on serving the Islamic idea. It is simply a spiritual bond that links the activities in the Arab and Islamic states in the service of Islam and of the Arabs.

[Sadiq] Let us shift from the specific to the general. What do you think of what is occurring in the Islamic arena at present?

[Abu al-Nasr] There is, without doubt, an Islamic awakening. In my various meetings in the British capital I explained what the Islamic movement is faced with, and what course it should follow. I talked about waiting and preparing for the great future, awaiting the Islamic movement that could become a strong moving force, everywhere dispelling the superficial charges leveled against Islam.

BRIEFS

New Envoy Departs for Turkey

Ambassador Muhammad 'Isa left Cairo for Ankara this afternoon to assume his new post as Egyptian ambassador to Turkey. Ambassador 'Isa stated that he is carrying a personal message from President Husni Mubarak to Turkish President Kenan Evren. [Excerpt] [*Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 14 Jan 88 NC*]

Libya

Student Congress Supports Palestinians

LD111746 Tripoli JANA in English 1431 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Text] Tripoli, Ayn al-Nar [January] 11, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The 3rd General Congress of Arab Students' General Union began its sessions in Tripoli last night under the slogan "Pan Arab students' unity is a basic guarantee for enhancing the leading role of the Arab Students General Union and the students' rights in education and free union activities and the realisation of the nations' will in liberation, unity and social justice".

Speeches were made at the congress praising the stone uprising in occupied Palestine against the Zionist racist enemy, and condemning the Camp David agreements asserting at the same time solidarity with the Egyptian Arab people who are rejecting these agreements of treachery which resulted in passifying the role of 'Abd al-Nasir's Egypt.

The congress was attended by youths and students' organisations from 25 countries working together to help achieve Arab students' unity in the face of the challenges confronting the Arab nations.

Mubarak's Visit to Gulf Countries Criticized

LD101433 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1240 GMT 10 Jan 88

["Today's Report" program]

[Excerpts] The popular revolution in occupied Palestine, the revolution of stones, knives, blazing tires, and Molotov cocktails against the Zionist occupation invaders, is continuing and escalating. [passage omitted]

With regard to the latest developments, our report deals with the arrival of the head of the Egyptian regime in Saudi Arabia yesterday, within the framework of a tour of Arab Gulf countries scheduled to last for a week. The tour is to include Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the UAE, Bahrain, Qatar, and Oman.

On his arrival, the head of the Egyptian regime expressed his support for the Gulf countries in the face of what he called the Iranian threat. He pointed out that these countries can rely on Egypt in this regard.

It should be recalled that international news agencies and the press have carried reports during the past few days about the Egyptian regime's dispatch to the Gulf countries of thousands of Egyptians to work there, and that 10,000 of them have already arrived. The Egyptian regime is seeking in this way to improve its deteriorating economic conditions at the expense of Egyptian citizens. Mubarak's visit to the region also comes in the wake of the Gulf countries' restoration of diplomatic relations with the Egyptian regime, in accordance with the Amman summit conference, which took place last November. By his tour, the head of the Egyptian regime wants to affirm his gratefulness for these steps, which are consistent with his capitulationist course, and his intensive efforts coordinated with the Zionists and Americans with a view to ensuring the success of the disgraceful proposals and designs. All this takes place at a time when U.S. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci has been touring these same countries to discuss the question of the U.S. military presence in the Gulf and the importance and coordination this demands from the parties' concerned, in the face of the heated events there.

Informed sources expect the head of the Egyptian regime to meet with the U.S. defense secretary during his current tour of the Gulf countries, within the framework of the joint coordinated efforts of the Egyptian regime, the U.S. Administration, the Zionist enemy, and the other reactionary regimes, in order to ensure the success of the capitulationist plans and to serve the imperialist and Zionist interests in the region.

In view of this and the serious developments taking place in the Arab region, which threaten its entire existence, and regarding the current tour of the Gulf countries by the head of the Egyptian regime and his statement and the conspiratorial dimensions this tour involves, it can be said that he cannot provide the capabilities he claims he can offer in support of the Gulf countries. His regime is fettered by the shackles of the traitorous Stable David and is unable even to liberate the Egyptian Tabah from the usurpant Zionists.

If it is possible for Egypt to provide such support, there are numerous imposing points, affirming that the head of the Egyptian regime is being manipulated by the U.S. Administration and the Zionists for performing this task in order to protect their strategic interests. Had he been anxious to safeguard the Arab territories from any aggression, he should have first liberated Tabah and provided aid and support to the revolution of the Arab people in Palestine, as they face up to the abominable Zionist aggression, which threatens the entire existence of the Arab nation, including Egypt itself.

Morocco

Laraki Receives Message From PLO's 'Arafat

LD141438 Rabat MAP in English 1200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Rabat, Jan 14 (MAP)—Premier Azeddine Laraki received here Wednesday the attache to the Palestine Liberation Organization's Political Department Abu Marwan [Fawwaz Yasin].

The PLO envoy who was received following royal instructions conveyed the head of Moroccan Government a verbal message from the Chairman of the PLO Executive Committee Yasir 'Arafat destined to the Moroccan sovereign.

Sudan

Al-Mahdi on South, Ties With Libya, Ethiopia

JN141711 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 12 Jan 88 p 15

[Interview with Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi by Al-Fatih al-Tijani in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] AL-ITTIHAD: Do you believe that the chances for peace, after the military victory over the outlaw movement, which is supported by regional forces in Kurmuk and Qaysan, and after the escalation of media and popular campaigns against the Garang movement, have been so narrowed that the military option has become the only one available?

Al-Mahdi: What is the military option? Under such circmstances, it can never mean the pursuit of a war until the last opponent has been uprooted. Basically, it must be an action aimed at bringing about soundness and efficiency in the security and military situation—soundness and efficiency that will make all those who bear arms feel that they cannot resolve their issues and causes through the use of force. Hence, we believe that the duty of the Armed Forces is to make all who bear arms understand this matter. Combing forests and valleys is out of the question and impossible. Once again, the basic role of the Army lies in affirming to those who carry arms that it is impossible to achieve their political objectives through the use of force. [passage omitted] We proposed convening the constitutional conference as a way of finding a solution, and we are still working to see this conference used and viewed as a rostrum for tackling the basic disputed and inherited issues of the homeland.

AL-ITTIHAD: However, it seems that the constitutional conference is a remote possibility. Do you not think so?

Al-Mahdi: No, it is not a remote possibility. I have personally had dialogues with all parties concerned. I do not believe that the idea of convening the conference is a remote possibility if we manage to move the Sudanese

issue away from hotbeds of tension and polarization in neighboring states in a manner that will help the Sudanese to reach a peaceful settlement of their problems.

AL-ITTIHAD: Are the recent negotiations in London between government and military officials on the one hand and representatives of the Garang movement on the other linked to your optimism?

Al-Mahdi: As a matter of fact, what has recently transpired in London can be likened to a process aimed at listening to the other point of view with the hope of seeing new stands adopted. Actually, new things have emerged during these negotiations, represented in the following three points:

First, the [Garang] movement has affirmed that it does not object to the application of Islamic Shari'a laws if the southerners and non-Muslims can be exempted, and also if the rights of all Sudanese citizens regardless of religion can be defined clearly and realized.

Second, there was a recognition that many organizations were parties to the Kokadam declaration while others were not. Therefore, there was a recognition that they must also be involved in this declaration.

Third, there was an acceptance of the idea that any lifting of the state of emergency must be accompanied by a cease-fire.

These points must, of course, be viewed against the background of the process of exchanging opinions on measures to prepare for the convening of the constitutional conference. The London meeting has not brought about a breakthrough. However, it constitutes progress, as outlined in these points, which might contribute, when the circumstances are opportune, to an agreement leading to the convening of the national constitutional conference.

AL-ITTIHAD: In light of your recent meeting with Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam in Kampala, do you believe that Addis Ababa is demonstrating a serious intention to resolve the Sudanese issue?

Al-Mahdi: I personally believe that all objective conditions emphasize that Sudan and Ethiopia must try to resolve the tension between them; these objective conditions are stronger than any individual will. Currently, there is distrust between the two sides, as well as negative accumulations with regard to bilateral relations. However, I truly believe that there is a strong conviction in both states regarding the need to avoid conflict. This conviction is also dictated by the objective conditions prevailing in both states. The coming days will make the extent of this conviction on the part of both sides public knowledge at the agreed upon meeting.

AL-ITTIHAD: Did the Ethiopian side propose to the Sudanese side at any time bartering the Eritrean issue for the southern Sudan issue?

Al-Mahdi: Not at all. The Eritrean issue has never been presented as a bargaining chip. However, it is well known that Ethiopia has many internal problems besides the Eritrean issue. Ethiopia believes that Sudan is linked to these problems and to their complication and exacerbation. During our future negotiations, we will tackle all interlinked issues out of a desire to maintain good-neighborliness and also out of an awareness of the need to normalize bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD: What has Egyptian mediation between Sudan and Ethiopia achieved thus far?

Al-Mahdi: Actually there was no mediation. It was only an Egyptian proposition that the two sides meet, and they thankfully accepted the proposition. There was no third role.

AL-ITTIHAD: Has the Egyptian mediation thus ended?

Al-Mahdi: Yes, it has ended.

AL-ITTIHAD: Some say that Egypt has been slow in helping Sudan in the battle to restore Kurmuk because the Sudanese Government has, through you, repeatedly announced the cancellation of the joint defense pact. Do you agree with this opinion?

Al-Mahdi: The countries that contributed to bolstering Sudan's position did not do so because they have agreements with Sudan. We clearly requested the following from all states:

First, to admit that what had happened was an aggression against Sudan.

Second, to express readiness to support Sudan with equipment. We do not want anyone to fight for us; the Sudanese soldier is highly qualified and able to do so.

Third, to follow up the situation and its developments in order to support Sudan's peaceful stand and efforts to defend itself.

Some states responded by extending moral support. Others sent military hardware. What happened was that the Sudanese Armed Forces recaptured Kurmuk independently. Foreign aid reached us only after the city was recaptured. What reached us will contribute to the future development of the Armed Forces. We will continue to defend ourselves by ourselves, and will not ask anyone to do more than he can do. The real fighter is the Sudanese soldier, and every state is free to decide on its aid to Sudan according to its circumstances. We welcome any aid extended to us.

AL-ITTIHAD: You are hinting that Egypt has not extended any aid to Sudan.

Al-Mahdi: Yes, Egypt has not extended any aid to recapture Kurmuk.

AL-ITTIHAD: What is noteworthy is the U.S. interest in the recent events and the letter of support the United States sent to you, as well as its warning to Ethiopia. Does this constitute a change in the U.S. stand?

Al-Mahdi: I do not think that there is a change in the U.S. policy. The United States is a superpower and has obtained information about the aggression. I believe it has played its role as a superpower in condemning this aggression. We expect all big powers to play a role for the sake of peace. Following the U.S.-USSR summit we congratulated Reagan and Gorbachev on the signing of an agreement on nuclear weapons. We also appealed to them to play a more effective role in ending the current world wars. The big powers should play a more positive role in regional conflicts. What the United States did was a legitimate exercise of this role.

AL-ITTIHAD: Have you raised the problems caused by Garang's movement, which is embraced by Ethiopia, with the Soviet Union?

Al-Mahdi: We were very clear in all our contacts with the Soviet Union. We asked the Soviet Union to play a role for the sake of peace, and said that regardless of the status of our relations with Ethiopia, it would not be proper for the USSR to play any role except by supporting peace and real political development in the various countries. In all of our contacts with Moscow we said that the big powers should play an active role in establishing peace in the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, and the Gulf. Our contacts with the Soviet Union will continue to be based on this concept.

AL-ITTIHAD: Moscow did not comment on the Kurmuk events as Washington did. Does this have any political significance?

Al-Mahdi: No. The big powers move in different ways. I do not think that making statements is the only available method. I do not know what the Soviet Union did in this regard, but I will know through our channels. We will then know if they only looked on or actually did something.

AL-ITTIHAD: What if it is revealed to you that Moscow only acted as a spectator in the best cases?

Al-Mahdi: We will decide at the right time and after evaluating the Soviet stand.

AL-ITTIHAD: You previously declared an initiative to end the Iraq-Iran war. Is there anything new in this regard?

Al-Mahdi: No, there is nothing new.

AL-ITTIHAD: Some people rumor that you are closer to Iran than to Iraq.

Al-Mahdi: People can believe whatever they want. Our declared policy calls for an end to this war that poses a danger to the region and to both Muslims and Arabs. We also support UN Security Council Resolution 598 and the efforts being made to implement it. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD: Newspapers have recently carried statements made by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in which he attacked the Sudanese regime and praised Colonel John Garang's movement. Does this mean relations between Sudan and Libya have begun to deteriorate?

Al-Mahdi: Our relations with Libya have always been and are still very firm. Sudan has its own domestic affairs and foreign policy. There are points of agreement on some strategic issues, and points of difference. I believe that the Libyan leadership understands this and deals with Sudan accordingly. However, with regard to bilateral relations, there are joint interests that should be promoted. Considering our views on Arab and African issues, we have differences, and the two sides are aware of these differences and deal with each other on this basis. I rule out that what has been attributed to Al-Qadhdhafi is his own opinion because he knows the current Sudanese regime is based on popular participation, is committed to social justice, and adopts a foreign policy based on free decisionmaking and away from protection, trusteeship, and subservience. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD: How true are recent reports that communist elements have spied for Garang's movement?

Al-Mahdi: Some of these elements have been arrested and investigations will reveal all the details of this issue.

AL-ITTIHAD: The Sudanese Government recently signed an agreement with the World Bank whereby it obtained a loan that will be exploited to set up agricultural and industrial projects. Can we say that Sudan's economy is on the road of true reform?

Al-Mahdi: We inherited an internal and a foreign deficit of approximately 40% of the state budget, a balance of payments with a decrease in production, an inability to make a living, and a partial freezing of exports since 1982. In the first year of democracy, 1986-1987, Sudan was able to achieve a 7.5% growth per year. Regarding 1987-1988, we expect a similar growth because crops now in the harvest season indicate a big increase in comparison with last year. This holds true except for corn, of which Sudan has strategic reserves. All this took place despite the fact that we did not receive support from the collective international financial institutions. I expect future circumstanes will be better than the last 2

years, and that agricultural and industrial revenues will flow in a better way to play a great role in supporting production. This is in addition to the 4-year salvation program through which we hope to be able to promote development, remove the deficit, increase exports, bridge the gap in the balance of payments, and increase government revenues. In general, what is more important is that development in Sudan is continuing. [passage omitted]

SPLA Forces Attack Akobo Garrison 11 Jan

EA141746 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpt] SPLA forces around Akobo, under the direct command of alternate commander Panom Pany Piny, carried out two surprising raids on the enemy positions in Akobo town garrison on 11 January 1988. A correspondent for Radio SPLA in the area says that six enemy soldiers were killed and scores of others were injured. [passage omitted]

SPLA Notes 'Heavy Casualties' in 1 Jan Attack

EA141742 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpt] SPLA forces of Fire Battalion Headquarters under the overall command of Commander Daniel Aweit Akuot, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander of northern Bahr al-Ghazal, heavily shelled Gogrial enemy garrison on 1 January 1988 and inflicted heavy casualties on the enemy in both men and materiel. Four enemy soldiers were killed and many others were wounded. [passage omitted]

Radio SPLA To Name Government Casualties

EA141839 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] In compliance with the policy of announcing enemy soldiers killed, wounded, or captured in the battles by the SPLA, whenever possible, the SPLA commander in chief has ordered all SPLA internal cells in all enemy garrisons to send names of enemy casualties to the nearest SPLA units so that their next-of-kin are informed through Radio SPLA.

This new policy of announcing the enemy casualties is both humanitarian to inform the relatives of those of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's soldiers who may fall victims and to counter Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's lies that whenever his clique army engaged in combat with the SPLA the result is hundreds of SPLA killed and wounded, compared to his one or two casualties, stressed the SPLA commander in chief.

Casualties Listed in Torit-Kapoeta Ambush

EA141619 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpt] The SPLA internal cell inside Torit enemy garrison has sent to Bright Star Campaign Department of Information details of enemy casualties sustained in the deliberate ambush laid by SPLA forces of the Eastern Equatoria zonal command on Torit-Kapoeta road on the 12th of January 1988, the day Kapoeta fell to the SPLA. According to the reliable information so far received, the Al-Sadiq troop casualties on Torit-Kapoeta road on 12 of January 1988 were 48, with 20 killed at the spot. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Ben Ali Holds Talks With Sudan's Al-Nasri

LD151414 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali has held talks with Mirghani al-Nasri, member of the Sudanese State Council, in the presence of Messrs Slaheddine Baly, minister of state for national defense, and Jalal Hasan 'Atabani, Sudanese ambassador to Tunisia.

Mirghani al-Nasri said that the meet

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Iranian Gunboats Attack Norwegian Tanker

JN151214 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1151 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] London, 15 Jan (INA)—The British Insurance Company Lloyds of London has stated that Iranian gunboats attacked the Norwegian liquid gas tanker "Igloo Espoo" while it was sailing near the Strait of Hormuz at 1300 local time today. In a cable sent to the INA office in London a short while ago, Lloyds said that the tanker had left the Saudi port of Jubayl en route to the ROK, and that it was hit near the Strait of Hormuz. The crew's quarters were hit and several casualties have been reported.

The tanker is managed by the Havtor shipping company, which is headquartered in Oslo. The tanker weighs 10,105 tonnes when empty and was built in 1975.

Oman

Information Minister on Mubarak's Gulf Tour

JN141538 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The minister of information, His Excellency 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rawwas, has said that Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak's visit to the Sultanate and his meeting with his brother the sultan will have great strategic implications. His excellency added that the Egyptian president's Gulf tour demostrates Egypt's approval of the statement issued by the GCC summit, which was held in Riyadh in December. The GCC summit statement affirmed that there is a clear-cut Arab mission. We are a nation that seeks peace, but rejects surrender. He said: Our mission has a just cause and he who has a just cause is always the strongest.

In his statement, the information minister added that our area is narrow geographically, but is nevertheless vital for world interests. We must behave rationally so as to convince the world that we are concerned about its interests and ours. His excellency referred to cooperation between media of the Sultanate and Egypt, and noted that it has gone beyond the stage of cooperation to become one of cohesion.

Deputy Premier Outlines 1988 State Budget

PM121545 Muscat 'UMAN in Arabic 3 Jan 88 p 2

[Report on interview with Qays 'Abd al-Mun'im al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs, by 'Abdallah Hasan; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Hasan] Your Excellency, let us begin the interview with this question: What are the most important features of the new budget?

[Al-Zawawi] The General State Budget for 1988 is an expression of the desire of the government of His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to implement numerous new development projects in various sectors throughout the country. The sum of 352 million Omani riyals has been earmarked for this development, representing the cost of these new projects and their commitments, as well as of the government's desire to assist the institutions which are helping in industrialization in particular and to assist the Omani economy in general. In addition, some of the principal features of the budget relate to the continued implementation of the policy of rationalizing spending, in conformity with the basic aims of the Third 5-Year Plan. All existing projects will be carried out as planned under general state budget. Projects not completed last year will be carried forward and added to this year's budget, in which the total capital expenditure in 1988 totals 337.3 million Omani riyals, including 245 million riyals in installation and equipment expenditure on civilian ministries' projects, 6.3 million riyals in capital expenditure relating to natural gas drilling operations, 74 million riyals, which represents the government's share in the capital expenditure of the Oman Petroleum Development Company, and 12 million riyals in capital expenditure unrelated to the projects of civilian ministries.

[Hasan] What about the expected revenue in this year's budget?

[Al-Zawawi] Total revenue comes to 1,350,300,000 Omani riyals, which includes 1,065,300,000 riyals net revenue from petroleum, 43 million riyals from natural gas, 202.7 million riyals in other current revenues, 3.9 million riyals in capital revenues, and 35.4 million riyals in capital returns. His excellency added that the current expenditure in the budget totals 1,219,600,000 riyals, of which 532.6 million riyals are earmarked for national defense and security, 533 million riyals for civilian ministries, 84 million riyals for interest on loans, and 70 million riyals, which represent the government's share in the current expenditures of the Oman Petroleum Development Company. [passage omitted]

[Hasan] How big is our budget deficit?

[Al-Zawawi] Naturally, the net deficit represents the difference between the total revenue of 1,350,300,000 riyals and total expenditures, loans, and contributions, which amount to 1,602,300,000 riyals. Thus, the difference between them is 252 million riyals.

His excellency added that the budget includes other means of finance totaling 58 million riyals. Of this figure, 55 million riyals are loans expected to be received and loans due for repayment, in addition to 3 million riyals in net aid. As such, the remaining deficit is 194 million riyals. [passage omitted]

PDRY

Official Rejects Dialogue, Denies Power Struggle

PM150901 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Jan 88 p 1

[Zaki Musa report: "No Amnesty for 'Ali Nasir, and We Will Take Sanaa's Views into Account"]

[Excerpts] The PDRY Government has announced its readiness to meet with any of the people working with former PDRY President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, but it has insisted on rejecting any dialogue with him or with his followers as a political group. Rashid Muhammad Thabit, PDRY minister of state for union affairs, indicated in a telephone statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from the PDRY Embassy in Damascus that the holding of any talks with the followers of 'Ali Nasir Muhammad similar to the meetings held at one time in Sanaa and Addis Ababa is completely out of the question.

Thabit concluded by saying that the professions of innocence from those people, and the fact that they have given up helping the former president fully, opens the way for their return to the country.

The minister of state for union affairs confirmed once again that work is continuing under the general amnesty decision announced by the government in Aden to deal with the status of fugitives. [passage omitted]

He denied reports that a power struggle has begun between the various wings of the Socialist Party, and said: "These are rumors being spread and fabricated by the followers of the deposed president".

And, with regard to the report written by a correspondent of the French newspaper LE MONDE in which he spoke about followers of President 'Ali Nasir distributing leaflets in Aden, he said: "Those words are devoid of truth".

Minister Rashid Thabit spoke about the start of oil exports from the northern half of Yemen, saying that oil production and exports will undoubtedly serve the development of Yemeni society and that everything will be sorted out through a spirit of unity. [passage omitted]

Al-Bid Speaks on Anniversary of Coup Attempt

EA141748 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Speech by YSP Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid at the Memorial Arena in Al-Tawwahi, Aden, on the 2d anniversary of the attempted coup on 13 January 1986—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Struggling masses of our people, dear comrades:

Permit me to convey to you warm greetings in the name of the YSP Central Committee and Political Bureau as you carry torches on the occasion of the 2d anniversary of the victory over the conspiracy, the conspiracy that inflicted on our country enormous damage and losses, a conspiracy that the opportunists attempted to carry out against all the revolutionary gains that had been achieved. The conspiracy led to the deaths of thousands of people, particularly of the noblest of those produced by Yemen, the historic and noble leaders Fattah, Antar, Muslih, and Shayi, as well as cadres of the country which the party spent years in training, educating, and qualifying so that they could raise up our country and enable us to occupy our historic and humane position in the new age, the age of victories of socialism and liberation revolutions. [passage omitted]

Masses of our people, dear comrades:

Since our victory over the conspiracy, which we have maintained to this day over the reactionary and imperialist forces [words indistinct], but we as a party have succeeded by means of evidence and proof in confronting those who engage in opportunism and conspiracies. On our side have stood numerous revolutionary parties and organizations, as well as the communist parties in the Arab countries, friends in the socialist countries, and above all the socialist ally of our revolution and people, the USSR.

In fact, our position has received deserved understanding from our fraternal neighbors.

The decision to introduce the general amnesty has also played an important role in our response to the conduct of the enemies of the regime. [passage omitted]

Comrades, despite the victories we have achieved we are also faced today with enormous tasks in the area of implementing the plans and programs of the executive and basic organizations. We have to put economic and social plans into effect, and must implement our programs dealing with the resolutions of the general party congress and those of the 10th session of the YSP Central Committee.

We also face an important nationalist task, namely, the common struggle with our brothers in the northern part of the homeland to reunite Yemen on peaceful and democratic foundations, and we have already made important progress in this area. [passage omitted]

Iranian Envoy Urges Expansion of Relations

LD141107 Tehran IRNA in English 0918 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, 14 Jan. 14, IRNA—Iranian Ambassador to Aden Hasan Aminian bid farewell to Minister of the Post, Telegraph and Transportation of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDRY) Salih 'Abdallah Muthana in Aden Wednesday.

Aminian praised cooperation of PDRY Government and emphasized consolidation of bilateral ties.

Salih 'Abdallah Muthana lauded the Islamic revolution of Iran and said that the two countries share common views in their struggle against Zionism, imperialism and reactionaries.

Aminian called for further expansion of bilateral ties and described presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf dangerous for the region. Ever since presence of U.S. fleets in the Persian Gulf chances for establishment of peace and signs of ending the Iraqi-imposed war became grim.

Saudi Arabia

Egyptian President Ends Visit, Departs Medina

LD151507 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 1420 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] At 1430 today, Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Medina for Egypt after a short visit to the Kingdom. He performed the minor pilgrimage during his stay, and prayed at the Prophet's mosque.

He was seen off at Medina Airport by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abd al-Majid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of Medina; Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources and acting minister of planning; As'ad Abu al-Nasr, Saudi ambassador to Cairo; Sayid Qasim al-Masri, Egyptian ambassador to Saudi Arabia; Staff Major General Yusuf al-Sallum, commander of the Medina military zone; Maj Gen Hamad al-'Arayshi, commander of the Medina police; 'Abd al-'Aziz Riyas, head of Medina Royal Protocol; and a number of civilian and military officials.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Envoy Discusses Resumption of Dialogue

JN141441 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 1250 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 14 Jan (WAM)—Ambassador Sayf Sa'id Sa'id, director of the GCC and Gulf States Affairs Department at the Foreign Ministry, met here today with Mostafa Ha'eri-Fumani, Iranian ambassador to the UAE.

Ambassador Sayf Sa'id Sa'id said they exchanged views on current developments in the Gulf region as well as the current contacts between the GCC states and Iran to discuss the GCC states' stand toward the resumption of dialogue between the two sides on all issues of interest to regional countries.

In a statement to WAM, Sa'id said thus far, the UAE has not received a reply from the Iranian side to the message sent by Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, to 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Iranian minister of foreign affairs, last Sunday.

Concerning reports of a meeting between Iran and the GCC states, Sa'id said it has not yet been agreed to hold such a meeting, nor has the date or venue been set. He pointed out that the two sides have been in contact on this issue.

Comparison of Mubarak News Conference

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic on 12 January carries on page 4 the text of the news conference held by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak at the Guest Palace in Abu Dhabi on 11 January. The AL-ITTIHAD version has been compared with the Abu Dhabi Domestic Arabic version published in the 12 January Near East & South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 49, under the headline "Egypt's Mubarak on Gulf, Arab Affairs," revealing the following variations:

Page 50:

column one, paragraph two, line three, sentence three, reads in AL-ITTIHAD: ...rumors about Egypt bringing soldiers and taking money, these are only... (supplying indistinct words)

column two, paragraph four, line two, sentence three: ...He is welcome. We have already met in Kuwait. He does not... (adding words "have already")

same paragraph, line eight, sentence eleven: ...to sit and talk. What can I do? Do we abuse each other? It will get us nowhere. We do not abuse anyone, and we do not like to abuse anyone. But what then? We are in an age in which... (supplying additional sentences)

same paragraph, line fourteen, sentence fourteen: ...no problems between Syria and me. A dialogue is necessary to solve problems. If you do not want such a dialogue, and you do not know the surrounding circumstances or my view on the issue, you must know the way I think with regard to a solution. If you refuse to do so, then what do you want me to do? I met the Syrian president in... (rewording, supplying additional passage)

Page 51:

column one, paragraph three, line ten, sentence eight: ...military or defense details. This is not in the interest of both... (supplying word "not")

column two, paragraph one, line nine, penultimate sentence: ...with the PLO. We discussed the subject of autonomy a long time ago... (clearing queried word)

column two, paragraph two, line eight, sentence four: ...their behalf. Autonomy was not desired. We were holding talks and then we stopped our discussion, and the door of autonomy talks... (rewording, supplying indistinct words)

column two, paragraph four, line six, sentence three: ...spirit of Camp David. In any case, if the subject of Camp David upsets us we have the international conference as a basis. The PLO must be represented at the international conference, either with the Jordanians—and this is the method we prefer... (supplying indistinct words, rewording)

column two, paragraph five, line four, sentence two: ... representation so far. I think Israel took advantage of the opportunity and said... (deleting passage)

Page 52:

column one, paragraph seven, line three, sentence one: ...between Egypt and the GCC states will be used as a card during your... (deleting word "and" and editorial notation)

Yemen Arab Republic

President Announces Palestinian Support Fund

JN141549 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The General Committee held a regular session this morning under President Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. The committee discussed a number of topics on its agenda and made appropriate decisions on them.

The committee discussed for the second time the new developments in the Palestinian arena. It praised the heroic continuation of the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. The committee approved a number of measures as a contribution from Yemen—leaders and people—to support this uprising.

President Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih addressed the following statement to the masses of our people: In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. If you support the cause of God, He will help you, and plant your feet firmly. [Koranic verse] Brother citizens, O sons of the proud Yemeni people: Our Arab and Islamic nation is confronting the most dangerous challenges and plots aimed at our existence, resources, and holy places. This is headed by the Zionist danger, which occupies a dear part of our Arab territory and Islamic holy places. The Arab and Islamic nation is now required more than ever before to stand united in one trench against the Israeli enemy and Zionist arrogance, with its expansionist objectives and terrorist practices, which are supported by the imperialist and colonialist forces.

We in the YAR are following with admiration and pride the revolutionary, faithful, and vehement uprising of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Arab territories, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. The uprising, entering its 37th day, expresses the Palestinian people's rejection of the occupation, and embodies every definition of heroism, martyrdom, steadfastness, and self-sacrifice. It has crushed every attempt by the intruding Zionist entity to undermine this popular uprising, including deportations, detentions, and the killing of women and children. The uprising is giving the entire world a lesson in valor and self-sacrifice. It is also exposing to the entire world those terrorist practices. This has caused the international community to express its solidarity with the Palestinian uprising, and has prompted international bodies on all official and popular levels to condemn Israel's ugly practices against our people in dear Palestine.

While affirming our principled, constant stand supporting and backing the Palestinian revolution and people in their legitimate and just struggle, and out of the belief in the importance of the Yemeni citizens' role and financial support for the Palestine question, we in the YAR announce that a fund will be established to aid our Palestinian people in the occupied territories and support the popular uprising there. We are confident that our people inside and outside Yemen will help their steadfast struggling brothers. A special account has been opened at the Yemeni Bank and its branches throughout our country to receive the brother citizens' contributions and donations in support for the Palestinian popular revolution. Through this revolution, the Palestinian people have managed to confront the Israeli war machine; offer daily sacrifices and martyrs; and give the brightest examples of patience. In the face of every sort of mistreatment, beating, torture, killing, and detention, they have continued their struggle to win their right to independence, freedom, and life; to regain the Palestinian people's legitimate rights; and to establish their independent state on their land under the leadership of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 2,986

JN141728 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Communique No 2,986 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 14 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today to defend the homeland. They inflicted new losses on the spiteful ones as follows:

1. Our formations in the I Army Corps northern sector dealt the enemy concentrated artillery and tank blows. They killed or wounded several enemy personnel and destroyed several of its positions.

2. The enemy's engineering work was halted in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. Our units in the VII Army Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: one enemy soldier killed; six infantry positions, a double-barreled machinegun, and an SPG-9 gun destroyed; one forklift and a tank carrier damaged; and one ammunition dump blown up.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 14 January 1988

'Large Maritime Target' Hit

JN142109 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Iraqi Air Force planes dealt an accurate and effective blow to a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 2120 [1820 GMT] today. The Iraqi hawks then returned with their planes safely to base.

An Iraqi military spokesman told INA that the Iraqi Air Force will continue to deal devastating blows to the aggressors' resources, as well as to the oil supplies of the evil regime ruling in Tehran.

Second Maritime Target Hit

JN150817 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0802 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Statement by an Iraqi military spokesman dated 15 January]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our great people have decided to destroy all the means of aggression and to sever the criminal Iranian regime's oil supplies. They have also decided to deprive this regime from the chance of exploiting any revenues in order to commit aggression against our country. Pursuant to these decisions, our heroic Air Force aircraft carried out a successful raid against a large maritime target off the Iranian coast at 0500 [0200 GMT] today. They scored an accurate and effective hit. After carrying out their duty, our aircraft returned safely to base under God's protection and care.

This is the second target raided by our heroic hawks in the past 12 hours.

[Dated] 15 January 1988

Iranian Battle Losses Noted

JN151440 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1428 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—Iraqi helicopters flew 25 raids against Iranian units in various sectors of the battlefield today. In a statement to INA this evening, an Iraqi military spokesman said that formations of the Iraqi Armed Forces had killed 15 Iranians during the last 24 hours. The Iraqi forces also destroyed and burned five vehicles, one motorcycle, three infantry positions, one machinegun emplacement, and three machineguns. The Iraqi spokesman added that a number of Iranian soldiers had sought refuge with our forward units. The spokesman reported that Iranian long-range artillery today shelled the Bimalik housing complex in northern Iraq. As a result of this enemy shelling, three civilians, including one woman, were wounded.

Iranian Military Group Reportedly Visits Israel

JN141009 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Kuwait, 14 Jan (INA)—The Kuwaiti magazine AL-NAHDAH has said that an Iranian military delegation concluded an official visit to the Zionist entity and left it last Saturday afternoon [9 January].

In its report, AL-NAHDAH added that the delegation left aboard an Israeli El Al plane on Flight No 442. It was seen off by General David 'Ivri, director general of the Israeli Defense Ministry, and General Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff. The Iranian delegation met twice with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and three times with Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

Iranian-Zionist contacts have not ceased despite the disclosure of the U.S. arms deals via Israel, the scandal known as Irangate.

Egypt's Mubarak Arrives From Saudi Arabia

NC151419 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1415 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak arrived in Baghdad this afternoon from Medina on a visit to Iraq. He was received on his arrival by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and a number of senior Iraqi officials.

Ramadan Meets With USSR, Somali Envoys

JN141354 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Viktor Minin, the USSR ambassador in Baghdad. During their meeting, they discussed economic cooperation between Iraq and the USSR and ways to promote it.

The RCC member and first deputy prime minister also met with Yasin Shiri Farah, the Somali ambassador in Baghdad, at the end of his tenure.

Envoy Denies Claim Regime Poisoned Opponents

PM151217 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Jan 88 pp 1, 2

[Unattributed report: "Iraq Vehemently Denies Amnesty International Report: The Killing of Opponents by Rat Poison"]

[Excerpts] Iraq has strongly refuted the contents of an Amnesty International report issued yesterday in London which stated that Iraqi security forces have used rat poison to kill political opponents. Iraq's ambassador to London, Muhammad al-Mashshat, told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that this report is part of a series of fabrications being formulated by the organization against Iraq at a time when it has failed to expose to public opinion the vicious crimes being committed by the Iranian regime and its ally the Zionist entity.

Ambassador al-Mashshat said that the organization has begun to invent and to spread these lies at a time when the most vicious crimes are being committed by the Iranian regime and its ally the Zionist state, be it inside Iran through killings, torture, executions, and imprisonment, even of children, or against Iraqi prisoners, as substantiated by the International Red Cross, or what the Zionist entity is carrying out in the way of killings, demolitions, detentions, and racial discrimination against the Palestinians inside the occupied territories. [passage omitted]

The ambassador vehemently denied that Amnesty International had submitted a request to the Iraqi authorities for an investigation of the matter. Moreover, he said that in the past the organization has been eager to announce its reports, but when it receives Iraq's explanations and reactions it disregards them.

In a report it published yesterday, the organization called on the Iraqi Government to investigate reports which indicate that the Iraqi security forces are using rat poison to kill political opponents.

The organization said that it had received reports which mentioned that at least 40 Kurds opposed to the Iraqi Government had been poisoned by Thallium—a poison widely used in combatting rats—in separate incidents last year. [passage omitted]

Electric Power Project With Turkey Viewed

JN141414 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0851 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Baghdad, 14 Jan (INA)—For the first time Iraq has begun to export electricity to nearby countries. In the middle of last month, the Iraqi and Turkish electric grids were connected as part of a two-phase project. The project provides for laying down a 400,000-volt line, setting up two transformers with all their accessories, establishing electric energy generators which have been added to the electric grid, and setting up transformation stations for the very high and high voltage of 400,000 and 132,000 volts respectively, so that their capacities have exceeded 1.9 billion volt amperes. The project also provides for laying down lines to transfer electric power, the lengths of which exceed 350 km.

Husam Yahya Zaki, adviser at the Ministry of Heavy Industries, said that Iraq has always endeavored to connect its electric grid with its neighbors in an efort to reduce the reserve generating capacities so that we can export the surplus in electric energy production. He added that there are technical and economic studies being undertaken on this issue, but circumstances have only allowed connection with Turkey, which took place on 12 December 1987. He also said: We are now exporting a quantity of energy as a first phase, which will increase by sevenfold in the second phase. Undoubtedly, the exportation of electric energy will provide us with a great deal of hard currency and increase the electric grid's reliability. We hope that there will be electric connections with other countries in the future, particularly Kuwait.

Weizman Proposes Peace Plan for Territories

TA131241 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Jan 88 pp 19, 46

[Article by Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman: "Before the War"]

[Text] The deterioration of the situation in the territories has now entered its second month. This time the reasons run deeper and call for a political solution, in view of the frustration felt following the collapse of expectations about a political process which would also bring about a solution to the Palestinian problem. The reaction corresponds with the current intensity of the violence: law and order is being enforced with the help of measures which have led to an unprecedented casualty toll for this type of incident. All these have caused international media reverberations reminiscent of the days of the siege on Beirut.

Those favoring a political solution that assigns Israel the perpetual role of a nation ruling over another nation against its will condemn us to a deterioration into war. Instead of realizing this before it is too late and leading the nation on the road to peace, we are once again hearing the trite slogans that the condition for a political process is calm in the area. The truth, however, is that the lack of calm is caused by the absence of a political process. The freeze is a boon for extremists and a setback for peace seekers. And, here and there, one occasionally hears the "political ostriches" uttering the cliche that we mean peace, although they never present a pragmatic proposal for its attainment.

Avoiding reality and emphasizing superficial formalities will not bring peace; neither will the Likud's interpretation of the Camp David accords. By the same token, the catchphrase that the security forces will restore calm in the territories is sheer delusion.

Have the security measures adopted in the territories since the 6-Day War brought about real peace and created the background for a political process? Have these measures encouraged the rise of a generation of moderate Palestinian leaders and the fall of radical ones? Has an alternative been created to the PLO as the Palestinian national movement? Does most of the population of the territories support a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli solution that is not approved by the PLO?

There is one answer to all these questions: No. We are currently caught in a trap. The political freeze increases the frustration of the territories residents (and, it goes without saying, that this also has an impact on Israel's Arabs), causing further deterioration to which the security forces react by intensifying their measures... the result being more frustration, and so on and so forth.

We must break out of this vicious circle at once, lest we get dragged into a war which would be worse than any we have known and which would serve absolutely no security or political purpose whatsoever. Such a war, with its victims and penuries, can be avoided by means of a peace process that would provide Israel with the necessary security valves to live peacefully within borders that would allow the existence and development of a democratic Jewish state, rather than living as a country that rules over the Palestinian people through punitive measures and at the point of the gun.

This is the third time since the 6-Day War that we have sunk into a policy whose practical implications have led to a freeze in the peacemaking process in the region.

The first time this happened was just before the Yom Kippur War. At that time the possibilities for attaining partial arrangements which would have prevented the war were not exploited. We believed in our ability to deter our neighbors from initiating a war until they were ready to conduct peace negotiations on our terms. We did not understand then, just as we do not understand now, that peace negotiations between us and our neighbors must be a dialogue between two equal parties.

The second time this happened was after the Camp David accords, when we wasted a historic opportunity to carry out the first stage of the solution to the Palestinian problem, based on a 5-year interim period of autonomy in the course of which negotiations would have been conducted on the attainment of a permanent agreement between Israel, the Palestinians, and the Jordanian Kingdom. The government took the opposite direction, and this is why the late Moshe Dayan and I handed in our resignations.

We now have the third historical opportunity—and, in my opinion, the last one before the situation deteriorates into another bloody and painful war—to launch a genuine peace process.

The time is now ripe to seize this opportunity. This is due to, among other things, the following developments:

—Israel and Egypt share a common interest in preventing the deterioration of peace.

—Egypt has been pleading with the PLO to show a willingness to solve the Palestinian problem through political means within a joint Jordanian-Palestinian framework coupled with the renunciation of terror.

—The Iran-Iraq war has led to the creation of an Arab strategic block curbing the threat of Khomeyni's Iran on the existence, integrity, and security of the Sunni countries. This block currently includes Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, and the Persian Gulf states. Egypt has a leading role in this block which can be used to advance a strategy of peace.

—Israel has pulled its Army out of Lebanon, has halted the establishment of new settlements, and has agreed to solve the problem of Tabah through international arbitration.

—The positive developments in U.S.-Soviet relations have led to a historic change regarding the nuclear arms balance. The two countries are willing to establish a dialogue. This is particularly important in view of the fact that without the participation of the Soviet Union there can be no comprehensive and stable peace in the region.

As I said, so far we have missed important opportunities. Now, we must look to the future. Therefore, the decisive question is how to avoid getting stuck in the historic juncture we have reached and instead make progress toward peace with the neighboring Arab countries.

I am often asked: What do you propose, other than criticizing others? Well, in addition to a great deal of criticism I also have practical proposals on ways to get out of the stalemate that harbors the risk of war. First, however, let me make a general observation: Peace efforts must be embraced by the two major parties, and not just by one of them. We cannot conduct a process that will decide the fate of the State of Israel if the nation is almost evenly split. This is no question of a divine miracle. After all, the two major parties have quite a few things in common:

—The very yearning for peace, despite the differences about the framework of the negotiations and a possible solution.

—The belief that the Camp David accords, signed by Menahem Begin and ratified by the Knesset, is the only acceptable basis for negotiations.

—Agreement that the Jordanian delegation to the negotiations would include Palestinian representatives who would be elected by the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

It is imperative that until the elections in November 1988 the national unity government should initiate mutually-acceptable actions leading to the beginning of a peace process.

And now, here is my proposal. Israel should approach the Egyptian Government with a request that preparatory talks for a peace process be held in Cairo under Egyptian mediation based on the following principles:

—An Israeli and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation would be invited to the talks. The Palestinian representatives would be chosen by Jordan, Egypt, the Palestinians, and Israel.

—All violent activities would stop in the territories while the talks are being held.

—In the preparatory talks Israel would propose a peace process with Jordan and the Palestinian people which would include:

a. A 3-year transition period in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza which would be based on Palestinian autonomy. This would be run jointly by Jordan and the Palestinian population and would be granted the powers necessary for the administration of the autonomy as a Palestinian entity.

The security zones, including the Jewish settlements, would be administered by an Israeli authority. A joint committee of the two authorities would be in charge of coordinating on economic and security issues as well as on other spheres which would not be under the jurisdiction of the autonomy's authority.

b. After the transition period the inhabitants of the territories would be asked by referendum to give their opinions about the permanent solution they wish.

The results would be taken into consideration in the negotiations over the future of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

Following are the three possibilities which should be polled in the referendum: autonomy in the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation; autonomy in the framework of an Israeli-Palestinian confederation; a continuation of the transition period model until conditions are created for an agreement on the permanent status.

Under all three possibilities it would be made unequivocally clear that Jerusalem would remain under Israel's sovereignty. The nature of the municipal rule of the city would be stipulated in the permanent agreements.

c. If a permanent solution is found in the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation the border with Israel would be determined on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 242.

d. The international framework for talks on the establishment of a comprehensive peace, and the framework for the establishment of peace between Israel and Jordan and the Palestinian people would also be determined in the preparatory talks.

I know that I will be criticized for not having brought my proposals to the Inner Cabinet or the Cabinet plenum. However, with all due respect to the Cabinet, I must say that it has been caught in a political trap from the moment of its inception.

If our situation in the territories and the shock this has caused in the world do not encourage my colleagues to march toward a political arrangement with courage and honesty and in the name of the values the State of Israel represents, the march of folly and all it implies will continue.

UN To Launch 'New' Mideast Peace Initiative

TA141256 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jan 88 p 2

[Text] Senior UN officials have decided to launch a new diplomatic initiative in the near future in order to move the stalled peace process and fill the void created by recent U.S. inactivity, informed sources told THE JERUSALEM POST last night.

The initiative is expected to be formulated in recommendations submitted by the UN secretary-general to the Security Council, in accordance with Resolution 607 which was passed three weeks ago and which condemned Israel's policies in the territories.

The linchpin of the UN initiative will be the recommendations submitted by UN Undersecretary General Marrack Goulding. He is expected to promote the idea of an international conference.

A UN spokesman said yesterday that Goulding would extend his stay here and would not return to New York as previously scheduled.

Top UN officials have spoken recently of the urgent need to reinvigorate the peace process. The officials believe that the U.S. is unlikely to confront Israel on the matter of an international conference in an election year. They maintain that unless the peace process is activated, the situation in the territories will reach boiling point.

Israel Television reported last night that the PLO has been sending various "signals" to Israel in recent days. The gist of the messages has been a PLO undertaking to calm the territories in exchange for an Israeli commitment to give the PLO equal footing in any future negotiations.

UN Resolution on Deportations Rejected

TA150510 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Israel has rejected the UN Security Council resolution calling on it to take back the Palestinian deportees and stop further deportations. Political sources in Jerusalem said the Security Council has no authority to interfere in Israel's internal security affairs. Almost all the members of the Security Council voted in favor of the resolution, with only the United States abstaining.

Arad Notes Concern Over 'Sharp' U.S. Criticism

TA092034 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] The Israeli Embassy in Washington says that the U.S. vote at the United Nations was meant to reflect Washington's resentment over Israel's scorn of its recommendations. In a diplomatic cable, the Israeli ambassador notes his concern over the sharp criticism leveled by Jewish leaders and U.S. Administration officials about what has been happening in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren has learned the full text of this cable:

The reports aired over the last few weeks have had a very negative cumulative effect as far as Israel is concerned. The reports, the Israeli Embassy notes, have seriously hurt Israel's image. A detailed cable which was received in the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem last night, a cable summing up a debate held by the Embassy staff and chaired by Ambassador Moshe Arad, notes that the issue of human rights is Secretary of State George Shultz's most cherished subject and that this is the reason why the United States has reacted so vehemently about the firing incidents and the deportations from the territories.

The cable points out that the vote at the United Nations was meant to reflect U.S. anger with Israel for having scorned its recommendations, and to sustain its credibility among the moderate Arab countries. At the same time, the cable notes, there is a clear tendency on the part of the U.S. Administration to tone down the public differences so as not to give the impression that there is a split between the two countries.

Ambassador Moshe Arad further notes that there is no doubt that when Congress comes back from its recess we will probably hear directly from senators and congressmen about the cumulative damage. I am very worried, the ambassador points out, about the criticism being leveled—albeit quietly and modestly, but very harshly—by a large number of Jewish dignitaries and rabbis.

Senators Stevens, D'Amato, and Rudman, who conferred with the foreign minister last night, warned that in the modern era of electronic communications one should be very sensitive about the reports coming from Israel. These reports, the senators said, have a decisive effect on public opinion and policymakers. Citing one example, the senators noted that television reports about the riots in South Korea had recently adversely affected U.S. aid to that country. They said that such a danger also lies in store for Israel.

U.S. Territories Stand Not Viewed 'Seriously'

TA081603 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 8 Jan 88 p 1, 7

[Editorial: "The U.S. Position and the Israeli Disappointment"]

[Text] No sooner was the U.S. position in the United Nations on the Israeli Government's decision to deport nine Palestinians from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

proclaimed—the same position which was practically stated by the U.S. endorsement of the Security Council resolution issued 2 days ago calling on Israel to cease the deportation measures against Palestinians—than Israel declared through the prime minister's spokesman its shock and disappointment. Israel considered the new position of its strategic ally as a negative development in U.S. policy toward Israel.

In the Arab world the U.S. position was welcomed with open arms. It was welcomed to such an extent that some Arab capitals were excessive in their optimism. These capitals pinned great hopes on the U.S. position even though this position merely reflects an international consensus that is clearly manifesting itself all over the world. This consensus has evolved since the countries of the world realized that they cannot justify the Israeli decisions against the Palestinians because these decisions run counter to international laws and statutes.

Despite the Israeli rejection of the U.S. position, and despite what is being said about a strain in U.S.-Israeli relations as a result of this "timid" position, we cannot view the U.S. position seriously as long as its decisions on the Palestinian problem do not, under any circumstances, deviate from the framework of the Israeli perspective. We cannot take this position seriously as long as the bullets and the tear gas fired at the demonstrators in the occupied territories are U.S.-made, and the U.S. Administration continues to ignore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights despite international support for them.

Those Arabs who expressed their great satisfaction with the new U.S. position at the Security Council should not exaggerate this satisfaction. The U.S. position will not go beyond approval of a resolution that will be added to the list of resolutions issued by the Council. This list has remained merely a list of motionless resolutions in folders and no more.

Jordanian Envoy Opposes Territorial Compromise

TA141833 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1805 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] An envoy from Jordan said in Jerusalem today that Jordan is opposed to any territorial compromise regarding the territories. Our political correspondent Yig'al Goren reports that the Jordanian envoy met today with Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, but no details were given about the identity of the Jordanian personage. Mr Ben-Aharon told our correspondent this evening that Prime Minister Shamir had already a few months ago suggested that the Egyptian president invite an Israeli as well as a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation for Egyptian-sponsored talks, but no progress has taken place regarding this proposal. This is not a proposal by Minister Weizman, Ben-Aharon said.

Shomron on Deportees, Unilateral Withdrawal

TA141838 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron has repeated Israel's position that the Palestinians who have been deported will not be allowed back into Israel no matter where they come from. Speaking to the Israeli Press Club in Tel Aviv tonight, Gen Shomron also said that in the present situation it would be impossible for the Army to just pull out of the territories and allow extremist Arab groups to take over. More from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] The chief of staff says it's more than likely that a wide-spread campaign will be started somewhere to make a media event out of the deportees and the issue of their return to the territories, but they won't get back, he said. I don't know where they will come from or from there will be efforts to bring them, but the deportees will not return here because we won't allow them in.

Regarding the territories, the chief of staff rejected any suggestions that the Army pull out unilaterally. It's impossible to just leave, he said. We can't allow extreme groups, such as the Al-Shabibah, the gangs of Fatah youngsters who have been prominent in disturbances, to just take over the streets. I have no doubts that within a short time they would be in control in dictating what went on. They will have weapons and they will undertake the sort of terror campaigns that we have seen on our border with Lebanon. Pulling out without having achieved an agreement would be dangerous and impractical, said the chief of staff. While in order to advance toward any peace negotiations there must first be a restoration of calm and security in the territories. This is what the Army is trying to do. [end recording]

PLO Role in Territories Disturbances Analyzed

TA112032 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Jan 88

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Text] These days the PLO is exerting great efforts in channeling the events in the territories in the direction of greater chaos and creating an atmosphere of ongoing anarchy. These are the messages being conveyed, sometimes personally, by Yasir 'Arafat and his colleagues to their people in the territories.

The emphasis is placed on what they term maintaining the momentum of the stones' revolution; using the tools of a mass insurgence, but without moving to the stage of an armed struggle. They say that the stage of the machinegun has not yet arrived. Over the last few days 'Arafat has used various methods to clarify that he opposes the use of firearms in the disturbances for fear of a sharp Israeli reaction which would stop the disturbances. In this issue there is a sharp dispute between the Fatah

leadership and the small terrorist organizations linked with Syria. These smaller organizations are searching for a way of infiltrating firearms into the demonstrations.

'Arafat has also made it clear to his people in the territories that he does not support the idea of a civil disobedience campaign as propogated by Hanna Sinyurah. He fears that such experiments will in the long-run put an end to the disturbances in their present form. The PLO leadership feels that the recent events have severely harmed King Husayn's position in the territories and strengthened the PLO's bargaining power, which has been seriously deteriorated in the Arab world over the recent months. Out of these considerations the PLO is not trying—as was feared in Amman—to also cause disturbances in the Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan.

Incidentally, Jordan has significantly increased the security and alert systems along the Jordan Valley in the last few days. They have increased patrols, ambushes, roadblocks, etc., and this can be clearly seen from within Israeli territory. It has developed that the PLO is currently trying to conceal the conflicts between its supporters and the religious circles, especially in the Gaza Strip. There are signs that there is a sort of cease-fire which has been achieved between the PLO and the religious circles for the purposes of cooperating in the present riots.

The PLO's second concern is to increase the flow of funds to the territories, by means of charity associations and many other institutes related to the PLO, in order to provide compensation for the losses incurred by the ongoing strikes. The sums intended are large, and apparently 'Arafat does not possess the entire amount. Beyond this the PLO is planning, as is known, a series of propaganda maneuvers aimed at Western public opinion. One of them was the attempt to send a shipload of food and medicine to the Gaza Strip.

Palestinian Leaders Pose Demands on Territories

TA141426 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] A group of notables from the territories convened a news conference in Jerusalem today. At the news conference they presented a series of demands to Israel.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that among these notables are Sari Nusaybah; Jabi Baramaki, Bi'r Zayt University president; Mubarak 'Awwad; Mustafa al-Natshah, former Hebron mayor; as well as the priest 'Awda Rantisi. Among their demands was the lifting of curfews from the refugee camps, putting an end to the policy of deportations, permitting links between the population and the PLO, easing the tax burden and channeling the funds coming from the taxes paid by the inhabitants of the territories working in Israel to benefit the territories.

The notables claimed that the talk in Israel about a transfer and the residence of Sharon in the Old City of Jerusalem are among the reasons for unrest in the territories. Dr Jabi Baramaki told our correspondent that their remarks should not be construed as a call for civil disobedience or incitement.

'United Leadership' Claimed in Territories

TA141919 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1805 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] About 250,000 of the residents of the territories, the vast majority of whom reside in the Gaza Strip refugee camps, are under a curfew.

In the meantime, leaflets were disseminated calling for the observance of a memorial day tomorrow for those who have died in the riots. The day will be marked with symbolic funeral processions carrying empty coffins and with prayers in the mosques. It seems that PLO elements are also a party to this initiative by the religious groups.

According to the original plan of the initiators of the commercial strike, the strike was scheduled to end tomorrow. Still, these leaflets point to a clear tendency to continue with such an act of dissociation, together with challenging the method of curfews.

Incidentally, the leaflets are pervaded with a strong anti-Semitic tone. Jews are termed "the brothers of the apes," "the assassins of the prophets," and "the vampires." The leaflets contain calls to avenge the blood of the dead and to tear Jews' guts out.

It is interesting that while leaflets by the Islamic circles reject the international conference idea and stress that Jihad, the holy war until Israel is destroyed, is the only way, the PLO's Yasir 'Arafat this evening again proposed an international conference without preconditions.

For the first time the leaflets, like the broadcasts by the new Palestinian station from southern Syria [as heard], claim that a united leadership has been set up for exacerbating civil disobedience in the territories.

The leaflets also contain a list of demands such as halting the settlements, the cancellation of the emergency laws, the removal of the IDF from the refugee camps and towns, the dissolution of the rural and urban councils, and the declaration of new democratic elections. The immediate goal of the leaflets is to try to continue the riots in spite of the curfew. Residents of the large towns, however, contrary to residents in the refugee camps, are already showing signs of fatigue.

Collective Punishment for Disturbances Favored

TA111828 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
11 Jan 88 p 1

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] It can be understood from the announcement following yesterday's Cabinet meeting that the security forces will expand the penal measures in the territories. The goal of this is to restore the peace after the disturbances and to cause some inhabitants of the Gaza Strip to exert pressure on the organizers of the demonstrations. The aim is to impose collective punishment by curfews on those refugee camps and neighborhoods where many of the demonstrations take place. These curfews will prevent the inhabitants from leaving for work and providing for their families.

Until now, the inhabitants used to go to work and obtain services from the Civilian Administration. If they wanted to, they were able to either participate in, or ignore, demonstrations after work. As of now, a curfew will be imposed on the neighborhoods and refugee camps where riots are likely to take place, and the inhabitants will not be permitted to go to work. Thus, some internal pressure could be applied on the organizers of the disturbances. But there is also a certain danger that the people will feel they have nothing to lose, and because of the pressure on their families, the circle of hostility will widen even further.

This punishment can also increase international pressures on Israel. The PLO started to claim recently that the refugee camps are under siege, just as in Lebanon. In Lebanon they are under Amal siege while in Israel they are under IDF siege. The PLO demanded that delegations and observers, as well as food and medication, be sent to the camps. It is clear that as this method of collective punishment is implemented, it will also be up to the IDF to make sure that there is enough food and other basic needs for the inhabitants.

This method has already been employed in three refugee camps in the Gaza Strip over the last 2 days.

Islamic Brotherhood Leader on Territories

TA141213 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew
14 Jan 88 p A3

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef]

[Text] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the leader of the Islamic Mujama' (the Islamic Brotherhood organization in Gaza), has called on Israel to restore the rights and freedom of the Palestinian people, to stop the deportation and bloodshed of the Gaza Strip residents, and to withdraw from the territories at once.

This is the first time that Shaykh Yasin has made such disclosures to the media. In the past, Yasin was sentenced to 12 years in prison for his part in an Islamic Brotherhood squad in Gaza. He was released in the prisoner exchange deal with Ahmad Jibril. He is currently considered the most prominent leader of the fundamentalists in the area.

The Islamic Brotherhood leader is completely paralyzed and confined to a wheelchair. His modest house is guarded by a large private army, and IDF soldiers do not dare approach the place these days. He is at all times surrounded by some of his followers.

Shaykh Yasin said: "Israel must leave the area of its own volition and leave the internal problems to us. If it wants to hand the area over to somebody, that body must be the United Nations so that it can station international troops here."

Until recently, the Islamic Brotherhood in the Gaza Strip had been waging bitter and violent struggles against nationalist Palestinian elements, particularly against the leftist bodies that include supporters of the PFLP and the DFLP. Ever since the riots broke out, the Islamic Brotherhood has been operating against Israel alongside the PLO supporters.

"The occupation has united the entire Palestinian people, and I welcome this. All palestinians are Muslim, and all Muslims believe in God. The occupier must be ousted first and then we will solve the problems between us," he said.

Despite the unity on the level of the rioters and the man-in-the-street, Yasin has not yet met with his arch-enemy Shaykh Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, the head of the Red Crescent in the Gaza Strip who is considered one of the PFLP's most prominent activists.

Question: Does the Islamic Brotherhood in Gaza follow the Iranian model?

Answer: We are Sunnis and they are Shi'ites. This is a big difference that creates an unbridgeable religious gap. At the same time, the Palestinian people must learn from all men of wisdom, and if Khomeyni has wisdom we should also learn from him.

In his condition, it is very difficult for Shaykh Yasin to even get out of the house. Nevertheless, from talking to him it can be inferred that his sympathies are with the youths who took their fate into their own hands and set out to fight the IDF troops with stones.

Question: Would you agree to be represented by the PLO and Yasir 'Arafat?

Answer: It is hard to tell. If it is decided that he should conduct the negotiations, we may agree to this, but only on the condition that he make no concessions and stay alert so as to ensure our rights. We need to have a

democratic decision and to be given the right to choose our own representatives. Therefore, the best possible path is for Israel to withdraw and entrust the territories to the United Nations.

Shaykh Yasin's rival, Haydar 'Abd al-Shafi, says he is now prepared to let bygones be bygones, meet with Yasin, and even go to his home. In the past, Al-Shafi's men were victims of Islamic Brotherhood violence.

Further on Continuing Unrest in Territories

Sinyurah Released on Bail

TA141223 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The police have arrested four prominent East Jerusalem journalists on suspicion of membership in a terrorist organization. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that at dawn today, the police arrested Salah al-Zuhayka, the editor of AL-SHA'B; Ibrahim Qar'in, the director of the weekly AL-'AWDAH; and journalists Muhammad al-Zuhayka and Abu Latif Ra'id.

Hanna Sinyurah, the editor of AL-FAJR, was arrested in connection with the ongoing investigation into his call for civil disobedience and was released on 10,000-shekels bail. He is suspected of having supported terrorism.

More on Detained Journalists

TA142028 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1805 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] East Jerusalem AL-FAJR Editor Hanna Sinyurah was released on bail this afternoon after his interrogation by the police was completed. He was detained this morning and interrogated on suspicion of affiliations with a terrorist organization and of having planned an illegal assembly.

Also released this afternoon was Ibrahim Qar'in, editor of the weekly AL-'AWDAH, who was also questioned for the same suspicions.

Three journalists, Salah al-Zuhayka, Muhammad al-Zuhayka and Abu Latif Ra'id are still under detention and are being interrogated on suspicion of belonging to a hostile organization.

The illegal gathering in question is the journalists' intention to convene a news conference at the American Colony Hotel this morning. The Human Rights Association condemned the detention of the journalists. Our police affairs correspondent Uri Kohen-Aharonot has learned that numerous threats were received by phone at Sinyurah's home and office from people who identified themselves as KAKH supporters.

Two Journalists Released

TA151037 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The police have released another two East Jerusalem Arab journalists who were arrested yesterday. Salah al-Zuhayka of AL-SHA'B remains under arrest. The police will ask a judge to extend his detention.

Policeman Wounded in Jabalyah

TA151111 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Stones were thrown at a Border Police patrol in the village [as heard] of Jabalyah in the Gaza Strip. A policeman was wounded and evacuated to the hospital. Our correspondent points out that elsewhere in the Gaza Strip it is absolutely quiet.

Two Molotov cocktails were thrown at a Border Police patrol in Janin, but there were no casualties.

Police Alert on Memorial Day

TA150535 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Hundreds of policemen and Border Police are to be deployed today in East Jerusalem. This as Arabs hold the day of mourning for Palestinians killed in the disturbances in the administered territories. Last night, there were three incidents of stone throwing in the Shu'fat neighborhood in northeast Jerusalem. In one incident an Egged bus was damaged and two passengers slightly injured.

Thirteen refugee camps in the administered territories were under curfew last night. Seven of the camps are in Judaea and Samaria, and six are in the Gaza Strip.

Riots on Temple Mount 15 Jan

TA151116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Several worshippers began rioting at the end of the Friday prayers in the Temple Mount mosques. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that after most of the worshippers had dispersed, the rioters set Israeli and American flags on fire and hoisted PLO flags. The police were forced to use tear gas in an attempt to disperse them. Earlier, services proceeded uneventfully after preachers were warned not to engage in incitement. All the nine gates on Temple Mount remained open during services, but were guarded by reinforced military and police forces. The Temple Mount area has now been closed to media coverage.

Several Reported Wounded

TA151333 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] It is quiet now in the area of the Temple Mount, and in the Old City of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that a security man was injured in disturbances following the prayers, and was transferred to Hadassah Hospital on Mt Scopus. Several policemen were lightly hurt by stones and were given medical aid on the spot. The police made several arrests. During the riots, a revolver was snatched from a policeman, but after searches it was discovered on one of the rioters in the area of the mosque. There are at present large police and Border Police forces in East Jerusalem, equipped with vehicles to disperse demonstrations with water cannons.

W. Bank Leader in Incident

TA141244 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Gush Emunim Secretary Daniyela Weiss was again involved in a stone-throwing incident in the town of Qalqilyah this morning. Mrs Weiss told our correspondent Avshalom Ginosar that she was traveling in a taxi through the streets of Qalqilyah in the direction of Tel Aviv when a youth came out of a nearby alley and threw a stone at the windshield, causing no damage. Daniyela Weiss and the taxi driver got out of the vehicle with pistols in their hands and chased the stone thrower. Mrs Weiss claims that Arab residents who were nearby did not cooperate in the attempt to apprehend the youth. Army forces came to the scene and a Border Police officer asked Mrs Weiss to leave the site, because Qalqilyah has been declared a closed military zone.

Curfews on Balatah, Tulkarm

TA141429 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces imposed curfews on the Balatah and Tulkarm refugee camps earlier today following disturbances and stone throwing incidents. This is reported by our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus. Ehud Baraq, deputy chief of staff, and General 'Amram Mitzna', commander of the Central Command, toured Judaea and Samaria. At present there is curfew in six refugee camps, most of them in the vicinity of Ramallah.

Curfew Imposed on Al-Mughazi

TA150920 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] The security forces imposed a curfew on the Al-Mughazi refugee camp in the central Gaza Strip today. This brings the number of refugee camps under curfew in the Gaza Strip to seven.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the IDF is prepared for any attempt to disturb the peace, and the IDF presence on main routes has been reinforced.

Officer Stabbed in Gaza

TA151033 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] An IDF officer was attacked and stabbed in the Gaza Strip this morning. He sustained medium degree wounds. His assailant was shot dead.

Bomb Throwers Apprehended

TA151237 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] A curfew was reimposed at noon on the Balatah refugee camp following disturbances. Demonstrations were staged and stones thrown in the town of Salfit near Nabulus and in the village of Qisan near Bethlehem.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that two youths who had thrown Molotov cocktails at a Border Police patrol in the village of Silat al-Harithiyah in the Janin District were apprehended this morning.

AL-FAJR, AL-SHA'B Impounded in Territories

TA131544 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 13 Jan 88 p 1

[Text] The West Bank and Gaza Strip—Yesterday morning the military authorities impounded the national newspapers published in Jerusalem, AL-SHA'B and AL-FAJR. They prevented their distribution in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Arab Solidarity With 'Brethren' in Territories

TA141259 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 14 Jan 88 p 4

[Report by Ya'aqov Friedler]

[Text] Haifa—Israeli Arabs "will continue the struggle, begun on Peace Day last December 21, against the bloodshed and oppression in the territories, by all legitimate means."

But they will not join boycotts organized from across the Green Line, by Hanna Sinyurah or others, "because we take no orders from outside and will not boycott our own country Israel," the Arab Monitoring Committee told reporters here yesterday.

The committee represents a range of Arab organizations, from the organization of Arab mayors to student groups.

"We feel like a child whose mother, (the Palestinian people) and father, (Israel) are engaged in bloody fighting. We want shlom bayit (marital reconciliation)," said Mahmud Yuni, a Mapam member of the Histadrut's Central Committee and a member of the monitoring group.

The monitoring committee, he said, saw Israel as now having taken over the former Arab stand of "no" to negotiations or recognition. "The Arabs of Israel are united in consensus for Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders and the establishment of a Palestinian state, under PLO leadership, in the territories, and full equality of the Israeli Arabs in this country," he said.

The measures Israel was taking against the "popular uprising" in the territories were in effect the application of MK [Knesset Member] Beni Shalita's call to kill 50 Arabs to restore order by the government, Yuni said. "Already 35 have fallen and the killing is continuing," he added.

"We fear that oppression in the territories will eventually lead to oppression of Arabs in Israel and 'transfer' here too," he said.

Nimr Murqis, mayor of Kafr Yasif, said the committee was demanding an immediate stop to the arrests and administrative detentions of Israeli Arabs charged with provoking the riots on Peace Day. He said over 100 had already been detained.

The rioting, in "only five of 145 Arab localities" had actually been carried out by "a fringe," against the express orders of the organizers.

"We regret that in Israel's 40th anniversary year, the government is reverting to the military government tactics of 30 years ago." The incitement against Israel Arabs, from official quarters "is a continuation of 40 years of discrimination against us. We will not sit idly by while our brethren in the territories are being oppressed and shot, we have the legitimate right to demonstrate no less than the American Jews demonstrating for the Jews in the Soviet Union," he said.

The committee said its campaign would include appeals to public opinion, but "no rioting."

Arabs Protest 'Exaggerated' Reports on Unrest

TA131323 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 13 Jan 88 p 2

[Report by Judy Siegel]

[Text] President Herzog yesterday met with Arab local council heads in a "friendly almost paternal atmosphere," but refused to retract a "warning" he had issued to Israeli Arabs following last month's violence-marred "Peace Day."

The delegation, led by Shefar'am council head Ibrahim Nimr Husayn, had asked to meet Herzog in response to his statement that the violent demonstrations held in solidarity with residents of the territories could lead to "another chapter in the Palestinian tragedy."

Yesterday's meeting took place in a very friendly atmosphere, according to the Bet Hanasi [presidential residence] spokesman.

The Arab council heads explained that they were loyal Israeli citizens but were also proud of being part of the Arab people. They said that of 120 Arab settlements, "only three or four" were the scene of any violence, and they complained that some Israeli politicians "exaggerated the violent incidents by Israeli Arabs and incited" the whole population against them.

Herzog countered that he had been "in the forefront of the fight" against the racist ideology of MK [Knesset Member] Meir Kahane, and that as president he never let the KAKH MK "darken the doorstep" of Bet Hanasi. He urged the council heads to act as a "bridge" between the State of Israel and the Arab world, and especially to the Palestinians. "You are the only Arabs chosen by democratic elections," he said. "You should encourage the moderates to take responsibility and enter negotiations with Israel."

The president noted that Israeli Jews were very distressed to see illegal roadblocks set up at Wadi 'Ara and disturbances in Jafo, but noted that the troublemakers were a very small, non-representative group. He added that he thought the Arabs regretted the fact that they had not welcomed the Camp David proposals for autonomy as an interim measure towards a final settlement.

Territories Unrest Alters IDF Work Plans

TA130655 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] Recent events in the territories have forced the Army to change its work plans, purchase a lot of equipment, and deal with a civilian population. Decisions to this effect have already been made and are currently being implemented by the IDF. Our military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports:

The events of the last month in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip have affected the IDF's working plans, training and education programs, troop deployment, and budget. The General Staff Quartermaster General Branch has stepped up its efforts to purchase riot equipment, such as clubs, shields, helmets with eye shields, gas grenades, smoke grenades, rubber bullets, and first aid kits. This equipment exceeds procurement forecasts for the current fiscal year.

The Defense Ministry has recently also signed a contract for the manufacture of six armored vehicles equipped with water cannons for dispersing demonstrators. The

IDF had originally planned to purchase three vehicles of this type, but in view of the recent events it was decided to double the order. The vehicles will be manufactured according to the Army's specifications and will be handed over to the IDF within several months.

Events in the territories have also affected training programs. The IDF has been forced to drill soldiers in policing duties they had not been used to in the past. Soldiers who were trained to attack the enemy now find themselves dealing with a civilian population—made up of children, women, and elderly people with whom they will have to live in the future—in the middle of urban centers, while under orders to conduct themselves both with firmness and restraint, an apparent contradiction in terms. Education officers have been drawing up teaching programs for commanders on how to deal with unusual riots. These programs will become part of regular training.

The military presence in the Gaza Strip, Judaea, and Samaria is much larger than in regular times. Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron has been noted to say that a smaller force was used in the conquest of Gaza.

At the same time, the Civilian Administration in the territories will acquire additional manpower, new working arrangements, and Arabic-speaking personnel. No doubt, the events in the territories have affected the system.

Rabin Urged To Implement 'Political' Solution

TA121657 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
12 Jan 88 p 1, 11

[Editorial: "No Need To Reoccupy the West Bank and Gaza Strip"]

[Text] In his briefing to the Israeli Cabinet the day before yesterday, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin acknowledged that the situation in the occupied areas was not as simple as he had thought. He admitted that tension had continued for a longer period than anticipated by officials in the Israeli Ministry of Defense.

Yitzhaq Rabin reached this conclusion after one month of clashes, deaths, injuries, and arrests. This does not concern us a great deal, but the thing that worries us is that while the defense minister is studying the situation in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, he still refuses to ask himself what is the best remedy for the events in the occupied areas.

Yitzhaq Rabin persists in talking about the ability of the Israeli Army to quell the riots, while everyone is aware that what is taking place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip is not a military battle between the Israeli Army and the Palestinians, but rather a political battle. What is required from the Israeli defense minister, as well as the Israeli Government, is that they adopt a political position regarding the Palestinian protest movement.

Yitzhaq Rabin, who is one of the Labor Party leaders, is addressing the issues of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in terms of the methods and approaches of the Likud Party more than the stated positions of his own party.

In the face of this two-track stance by the Israeli defense minister, many people are asking what has remained of the Labor Party in the mind and heart of Rabin? Has the Likud kidnapped Rabin as it had kidnapped Moshe Dayan before him?

It was expected of Rabin to realize that in 1988 the West Bank and Gaza Strip do not require the tactics of Yitzhaq Rabin, the Israeli Chief of Staff of 1967, to reoccupy them again.

Rabin is required to acknowledge the existence of the "political disease" stemming from the continued Israeli occupation. He is also required to present his own proposals for curing this disease.

Shamir Stance on Goulding, Autonomy Assessed

TA121642 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
10 Jan 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Israel and the United Nations"]

[Text] Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir could not find anything to tell the three U.S. senators whom he met the day before yesterday about his unequivocal refusal to receive UN Under Secretary General Marrack Goulding, except to talk about "autonomy."

Goulding arrived in Tel Aviv delegated by the UN Security Council to follow up on the implementation of its recent Resolutions 605 and 607 regarding the current events in the occupied land.

Shamir's discussion of "autonomy" was coupled with the "condition" that first of all his government must undertake to "restore calm" in the occupied land, after which it will act on the "autonomy" issue. Shamir was trying to intimate by this that "autonomy" was an Israeli concession on his part in return for the restoration of tranquility.

This happened at a time when he realizes that all forms of autonomy are totally rejected by our Palestinian people and that the current events have exhausted any possibility of implementing such a traditional Israeli plan. Moreover, by this basically crude hint, the Israeli Prime Minister was underscoring his rejection of UN resolutions and reiterating that under no circumstances will his government retract this rejection.

As to Israeli Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, when he realized that he could not avoid meeting the UN envoy, he clearly stated that this meeting does not signify Israel's acceptance of the recent two Security Council resolutions. He confirmed that he will "explain" to this envoy Israel's insistence on pursuing its current policy in the occupied land without the least consideration to the international position and the will of this position expressed by UN resolutions.

Marrack Goulding is expected to present his report in 10 days time, on the 20th of this month, to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, who assigned Goulding with preparing this report on the events in the occupied land and the Israeli Government's position. This government, with all its coalition parties, has apparently made known its stance beforehand regarding this report. The stance is the expected one, stating that Israel is not bound by anything, that it will not cease the measures that it has adopted so far, and confirming that it will continue adopting such measures in the future as well.

What will the UN Security Council do to confront this stance? Will it convene for the third time and issue a third unanimous resolution calling on the Israeli Government to implement the two previous resolutions, without having any power of implementation except composing the resolution itself?

At any rate, the question of the potential of the UN Security Council is not so much to be taken issue with as the potential of the Arab countries. These countries are very pleased with the accumulating UN resolutions. Do these countries, however, possess no power except that of composing their own numerous resolutions?

Agriculture Minister Leaves on Visit to Hungary

TA071728 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 7 Jan 88 p 8

[Report by Avi Gan'or]

[Text] Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin left on Monday for a visit to Hungary, accompanied by his assistant Tzvi Alon.

Nehamkin's visit as guest of the Hungarian Government follows a visit to Israel by an agriculture and trade delegation headed by a deputy minister in charge of Hungary's state agricultural ranches.

Hungary Approves Head of Interests Office

TA141237 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The Hungarian Government has accepted Israeli diplomat Shlomo Marom as head of the Israeli interests office in Budapest. Our political correspondent reports that Marom served in the past as an adviser in the Israeli Embassy in Washington and in the Foreign Ministry's Research Department. He will depart for Hungary soon, where he will hold the rank of legate. Marom was born in Hungary.

Air Force Commander Evaluates Syrian Buildup

TA091020 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 9 Jan 88

[Text] Air Force Commander Major General Avihu Bin-Nun says that the Syrian Army is equipped with the newest Soviet weapons systems which not even the Warsaw Pact countries possess yet. Maj Gen Bin-Nun says that at present the Syrian Air Force is better equipped than the British, French, and West German Air Forces.

The Air Force commander told members of the Israeli Forum, currently in session in Tiberias, that the demographic problem and the internal differences of opinion within Israel are an important component of Israel's security for the next decade. He believes we should develop the motivation, discipline, and professionalism among all the Army echelons to enable the IDF to face the security challenges of the 1990's. Our correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht brought these excerpts of what the Air Force commander said.

Labor Party Secretary Retracts Resignation

TA141708 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Labor Party [LP] Secretary 'Uzi Bar'am has retracted his resignation after agreement was reached on the establishment of a partisan steering committee made up of representatives of the party in the government, the Knesset, the Jewish Agency, and the Histadrut. The LP Bureau is currently convening to hear about this agreement, obtained in a meeting held between the LP secretary and the LP chairman. Our correspondent Razi Barqay reports that at the LP Bureau meeting Mr Peres has again attacked the Likud. He said that the Likud's policy has gone bankrupt and that the Likud has no solution for any of the problems plaguing the country. At the same time he added that the Alignment will not abandon state security since Labor is a responsible party and the IDF is dear to all of us.

Herzog Announces Intention To Seek Reelection

TA121700 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 12 Jan 88

[Text] President Hayim Herzog today announced his decision to run for another term in office.

The president today summoned separately the Knesset speaker, the prime minister, deputy prime minister, coalition chairman Rafi Edri, and opposition chairman El'azar Granot and notified them of his decision.

The Knesset will hold a vote and decide the issue between 8 February and 8 April. The president's present term of office ends on 5 May 1988.

Severance of Egyptian-Israeli Ties Urged

JN151109 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
15 Jan 88 p 1

[Editorial: "It Is Time To Sever Egyptian-Israeli Relations"]

[Text] It is certain that resolutions of condemnation and denunciation are completely insufficient as a successful reply to the Israeli defiance of the Arab nation and the international community. This defiance is represented in the crimes of killings, starvation, and arrests by the Israeli terrorists against the kinfolk behind the occupation walls. The latest of these crimes has been the refusal by these terrorists to return the five Palestinians who have been deported to southern Lebanon.

In order that an Arab reply not be confined to words, Cairo is called upon to sever its diplomatic relations with the Israeli aggressors by recalling its ambassador and diplomats from Tel Aviv and dismissing the Israeli ambassador and his subversive apparatus from Cairo. Egypt had warned the Israeli authorities against deporting the Palestinian youths from their own country. Through its ambassador in Tel Aviv, Muhammad Basyuni, Egypt also cautioned that enforcing the deportations may result in the severance of Egyptian-Israeli diplomatic relations. However, the Israeli aggressors have thrown the Egyptian warning overboard. The Arab and Egyptian masses have urged Cairo to reply strongly to the Israeli defiance of the Arab nation and sever relations with Tel Aviv.

There is no doubt that such action by Egypt would deal a violent blow to the Israeli aggressors. It will also make them feel that they have paid a dear price for their haughtiness and defiance. This measure will be a genuine victory for the militant kinfolk in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, a victory for the whole Arab nation, and an affirmation of both Arab credibility and the unity of Arab ranks. Moreover, this measure will have an extremely important international effect. It will also prompt the UN Security Council to adopt a stand that goes beyond condemnation, and to work for ending the savage Israeli practices.

The establishment of relations between Tel Aviv and Cairo was a cherished wish in the minds of the Israeli aggressors. The Israeli aggressors are proud of achieving this dream. It is high time that this dream should end forever now that the Israelis have turned away from Egypt, which had brandished the olive branch. Another reason for this dream to end is that the Israelis have proven that their relations with Egypt did not change their criminal behavior toward the Arab nation. Thus, the Israelis have determined that they are not worthy of this relationship. Egypt now has all the reasons it needs to free itself of this relationship.

Husayn Discusses 'Uprising,' Peace Conference

JN142125 Amman Television Service in English
2000 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Interview with King Husayn by unidentified correspondent from the British Independent Television News network, Channel 4; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Your Majesty, first of all, you have more experience than any other leader in the Middle East of the Arab-Israeli conflict. How do you assess the importance of what is happening in the West Bank? How is this different this time?

[Husayn] Well it was...[Husayn changes thought] I suspected that sooner or later this was bound to happen. There would be a reaction to continued occupation. After all, 20 years of suffering, of denial of people all their rights under a terrible form of occupation, was bound to bring about an eruption. And that's why we were trying to point out to all concerned in the area and the world that we had to deal with the problem as soon as possible to try to establish a just and durable peace before it was too late.

[Correspondent] What in your view is going to be the repercussions of this if this goes on? I mean, do you take seriously the possibility of civil strife, even religious warfare, because that is what is now being talked about in the West Bank and Gaza?

[Husayn] Yes, civil strife, I take very seriously, and I take the situation as one that is very ominous in terms of continuation and escalation, of acts against occupation. On the other hand...

[Correspondent, interrupting] Religious warfare? Do you now see Islam being a factor in this?

[Husayn] Islam and religion in any event is a fact that has been a factor on the Israeli side certainly, and probably it will be a factor on the Arab side, be it Muslim or Christian. People, when they are in dire straits and when they are desperate, derive sometimes strength from faith and religion to face up to the impossible conditions that confront them. On the other hand, I believe the question is valid: Why now, why has it taken that long? And my own feeling is that it has taken that long because Palestinians prior to the seventies looked at Arab states to help secure their rights on their soil, and after that they relied on the PLO—the Palestine Liberation Organization, the sole, legitimate representative of the people of Palestine—to do so, and the PLO was saying that it was moving to secure these rights and defend the people and their rights. And time passed, and nothing happened, and so now we have something new. We have a movement within the occupied territories, both the West Bank and Gaza, and I believe it has nothing to do with any external element. It is spontaneous. It is there.

[Correspondent] In other words, you are saying that you are no longer in control; neither is Mr 'Arafat and the PLO. And this is what? An expression of the fact that nothing has been gained for these people in 20 years? If so, sir, that's condemnation of what you have done and what others have done, isn't it?

[Husayn] Well, I have tried and will continue to try, but we have been confronting unsurmountable obstacles created by extremism in Israel and their influence over the decisionmakers in the United States for the last umpteen years. I mean, we haven't succeeded in getting all the parties to the conflict to negotiate a solution that could be accepted by all sides, then by generations to come.

[Correspondent] Wouldn't it be politically expedient, and don't you feel dutybound, to try and find a way to negotiate with the Israelis sooner rather than later?

[Husayn] That will depend on the Israelis, and the only reasonable and logical way to deal with the problem is still what we have been trying to secure: an international conference, attendance of all the parties to the conflict, an invitation to the Palestinians to attend, and under the auspices of the five, so that direct negotiations with geographic groups commence so that we put all the packages once they are completed to the end of comprehensive peace.

[Correspondent] But just 2 days ago Mr Shamir the prime minister said to us in Jerusalem that he would not accept an international conference. Isn't it high time that all the parties stopped talking about what they cannot agree upon and started looking for a way that they could agree upon to talk with each other?

[Husayn] I have talked and I have looked very thoroughly and very closely at this problem. As far as I can tell, and I am totally convinced of it, Mr Shamir wants to start peace negotiations in place; he wants control over the occupied territories—all of Palestine plus territories belonging to other Arab states—and he wants to talk peace. He is not willing to withdraw from an inch of that territory; he considers this part of Israel. That's why it is impossible to get anywhere with somebody like Mr Shamir or with this mentality.

[Correspondent] Can we just get it clear, are you prepared in principle to negotiate with Israel?

[Husayn] On the basis of 242, 338, territory for peace, and a comprehensive settlement, still together with all the parties to the conflict. I've said that time and again.

[Correspondent] So it's really a question of where, how, and when. The principle is no longer the issue for you.

[Husayn] The principle is an issue for us; the need to negotiate is fairly obvious. The principle is 242, is 338 . . .

[Correspondent, interrupting] Territory for peace.

[Husayn] Territory for peace, negotiations to resolve the problem in all its aspects, withdrawal for peace, and the impermissibility of acquisition of territory by war and at the same time a solution to the Palestinian problem in all its aspects and therefore the Palestinian participation in resolving this problem.

[Correspondent] How much easier would it be for you if Mr Peres were to emerge from the election this year with a strong mandate to negotiate?

[Husayn] I believe that Mr Peres has been close to us in terms of our views, on what needs to be done. At least he can see that if the situation remains as it is, and that was even before this recent eruption and deterioration in the situation, it was only a matter of time before something happened that would make it impossible for Israelis and Arabs and Palestinians and maybe the world as a whole. So at least he was talking of an international conference, and he was talking of a solution in a similar way to what we were.

[Correspondent] Do you have any doubts that you could sit down with Mr Peres and work personally with him towards a solution?

[Husayn] Again, sir, negotiations can only take place within the context of that conference and that has been accepted the world over, except for extremists in Israel, and unfortunately until now the United States.

[Correspondent] The clear impression of this is that you are sending a message to Israel: that if they want negotiations then they had better vote for Mr Peres. Is that something that you feel?

[Husayn] It's up to them whom they choose and whom they elect. But on the other hand I hope that they opt for reason and logic before disaster overruns the entire area, including themselves.

[Correspondent] Because you certainly couldn't deal with Mr Shamir?

[Husayn] Not with the logic that says: That's it, all these territories are ours, and we have to talk about something else.

[Correspondent] Would you expect to have Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO on board behind you if you let the Palestinians enter negotiations?

[Husayn] Not behind me, but with me. At least that was what we had agreed upon and what was known as the Palestinian-Jordanian accord. And we have been working on that basis ever since. We would like certainly to see the Palestinians handle it themselves, and we would have to implement 338, which calls for an international conference; 242, the inadmissibility of territory by war,'67, the

aftermath. But beyond that there is a third dimension, which is the resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects, and we need the Palestinians there.

[Correspondent] What would you like to see Mr 'Arafat doing in the short term? Stop prevaricating?

[Husayn] Well, I hope that he will make up his mind as well, but I frankly don't think that the problem is with Mr 'Arafat so much or with the PLO at this date. It is: Are we going to get this conference underway or not? Once invitations are sent, those who attend will have to accept 242, will have to accept 338, will have to renounce violence, will have to come to view the Palestinian problem—all its aspects—and resolve it and establish comprehensive peace.

[Correspondent] What help can the superpowers give you?

[Husayn] The superpowers can give us the moral weight of the world, and I am not talking of only the two, but the five permanent members. Well, look at the Iran-Iraq war. How does it work there? Why should the five come together to try to find a solution there, yet why is it impossible to get the five to deal with the root cause of instability in the entire area, the Arab-Israeli problem?

[Correspondent] But do you believe that the Reagan administration, now in its final days—even given what's happening in the West Bank and Gaza—cares enough to want to impose its will on the situation?

[Husayn] That's a question which I hope the whole world will pose, and I hope that...

[Correspondent, interrupting] What is your own instinct, sir?

[Husayn] I think that there were lots of missed chances. I believe that moderates have been let down on both sides in this particular situation, and I believe that the United States will bear terrible responsibility if it continues in the same way.

[Correspondent] Do you sense that the Soviet Union—you've seen Mr Gorbachev very recently—do you sense that they now wish to be a major player in the Middle East and that they can help?

[Husayn] They are in the area and they are always a major player, and I have no doubt that we have a new, dynamic leadership that is willing to give and take, that is flexible, that can see the dangers, that is desirous of playing a constructive role, that is ready to play such a role. I don't see much difference between, very frankly, our position and the Soviet, or for that matter the Soviet position and other permanent members of the Security Council at all on what is needed.

[Correspondent] What about the British?

[Husayn] The British position is an excellent one. It is realistic, it is aware of what is happening, it is concerned with what is happening, and it is one that has always given us hope, certainly over the recent past, over the many years that have passed and hope that it will be effective in persuading others, including the United States in particular, to see the light.

[Correspondent] Do you sense, in conclusion, that the common ground that moderates like yourself and Shim'on Peres in Israel have had for a number of years, do you sense that that's contracting because the more violence there is in the West Bank and Gaza the more extremism will flourish on both sides?

[Husayn] I think we are fast approaching the psychological moment when all hope is lost of ever achieving anything reasonable and lasting and acceptable to generations to come, and when we do that, when we reach that point, sir, there is no point in taking into consideration the views of moderate peoples. They won't have any views that will count for much.

[Correspondent] You make it sound as though you feel the present crisis is pushing the region towards another war, rather than peace?

[Husayn] The attitude, sir, that brought about the present crisis, the suffering that has brought about the present crisis, the...[Husayn changes thought] All right, sir, there are some who continue to shout and yell and write, even now: Jordan is Palestine. All right, I tell you Jordan is Palestine. So what? Does that resolve the problem? The problem is of Palestinian rights on Palestinian soil occupied for the last 20 years. The suffering of the people in Gaza, the suffering of the people in the occupied territories. People are trying to run away from realities, from facts, from intolerable conditions by just wasting time, procrastinating, and trying to find excuses as where to hide away from their responsibility to find a solution to this problem.

[Correspondent] Do you think it's become Israel's problem rather than yours?

[Husayn] I believe that Israel has to make its mind up very, very rapidly, but more so the United States. The United States is a superpower that can play a constructive role, evenhanded. I can't see any semblance of that happening at this stage, and so long as extremists in Israel feel that they control decisionmakers in Washington, continue to receive help, right or wrong, a tragedy is being enacted, sir, that is of tremendous magnitude both in this area and probably affecting the world, and certainly not in the interests of even the United States in the long run or short run.

[Correspondent] Your Majesty, thank you very much.

[Husayn] Thank you, sir.

4 Deported Palestinians Handed Over to PFLP

NC141251 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The four Palestinians who were deported from Israel yesterday were handed over to the PFLP today after being moved to Rashayya, where they spent last night, and from there to a PFLP position in Jalala in the central sector of the Al-Biqa' valley, which is under Syrian control.

A PFLP official said that the organization will contact the International Committee of the Red Cross.

To Begin Hunger Strike

NC141536 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The four Palestinians deported to Lebanon from the occupied territories have declared that they will return tomorrow to Marj al-Zuhur, north of the Zummarayya gate. They intend to live in a tent there and to begin a hunger strike until international organizations can see that they are returned to their homeland.

The Palestinians said that Israel had warned them that Lahd's militia would open fire on them if they tried to return to the Zummarayya gate. This came as the occupation authorities deported a fifth Palestinian, Riyad Mustafa 'Uthman, via the crossing point in Ra's al-Naqurah in the south.

A Lebanese Army source in western Al-Biqa' has stated that the Army decided today to send the four Palestinians back to the Zummarayya gate in implementation of the official Lebanese decision not to receive any Palestinian deported from Palestine.

The Lebanese Army in Rashayya sent the deportees back to Marj al-Zuhur this morning, and the PFLP transported them to its command headquarters in Jalala camp after the Red Cross refused to receive them.

Al-Jumayyil, Al-Huss Oppose Deportations

NC141551 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has made several diplomatic contacts to emphasize Lebanon's absolute rejection of the deportation to Lebanon of any Palestinian from his homeland. Lebanon, which has suffered greatly from the ramifications of the Middle East issue, cannot tolerate further suffering at a time when it is in dire need of security, peace, and stability within its territory.

President al-Jumayyil has asked the Foreign Ministry to act in international and Arab circles to emphasize Lebanon's firm stand on this issue.

Meanwhile, acting Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has denounced the unjust deportations by the Israeli authorities. He said that any Arab leniency or laxity in this regard will encourage Israel to persist in such actions in the future.

'Secret' Talks With Syria Reported

NC151300 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] In its issue published today, the periodical MAGAZINE discloses that secret Lebanese-Syrian talks are currently being held in Nicosia under U.S. auspices. The talks revolve around a working paper submitted by the Lebanese president, and follow President al-Jumayyil's rejection of a proposal submitted by Rafiq al-Hariri [Saudi businessman of Lebanese origin] to the Americans on 11 December.

The periodical adds that a Lebanese official participating in the ongoing talks in Nicosia reported to his superiors on 29 December that the negotiations had reached an advanced stage that could lead to a written agreement. The hijacking of a military helicopter took place on 30 December. The periodical asks whether there is a connection between the progress in the talks and the military helicopter episode.

Fuel Ship at Al-Jiyah Reportedly Turned Back

NC141310 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1130 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Rabi' al-Qaysi, director of the (Kojico) post at the port of Al-Jiyah, has reported that although a fuel ship left the port today, Army boats forced it to return. He noted that the military measures taken by the Army in the wake of the military helicopter case are still in effect, albeit partially. Al-Qaysi expected another fuel ship to arrive at the port of Al-Jiyah within 3 or 4 days.

Army Command Lifts Blockade

NC151229 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1202 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Statement issued by the Guidance Directorate of the Army Command on 15 January]

[Text] The Army Command announces that it has lifted, as of today, the ban on shipping in the area extending from Khaldah to Al-Awwali, which was declared a war operations zone after the hijacking of the Gazelle helicopter to the Al-Shuf on 30 December 1987. The Command points out that the referent measures will be limited to routine air and naval patrols to confiscate all contraband. This decision was made after the Army Command received a cable from the commander of the 11th Brigade, confirming that the hijacked helicopter has indeed come under his charge in the Hammana Barracks.

Islamic Unification Official Assassinated
NC151008 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Gunmen assassinated Mas'ad Haydar, military official of the Islamic Unification Movement in Sidon, in the 'Abrah-al-Hilaliyah area last night.

Ja'ja' Comments on Presidential Elections
NC150839 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] On the occasion of the second anniversary of the 15 January Movement [overthrow of former Lebanese Forces Executive Committee Chairman Elie Hubayqah by Ja'ja' and the Phalangists], Lebanese Forces Commander Samir Ja'ja' emphasized that the Lebanese Forces will employ all means to prevent a Syrian candidate from assuming the post of president of the Republic. He pointed out that the Lebanese Forces are prepared to hand over all ports and utilities under their control to any future president who will adopt their political program.

Speaking over the Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation [Lebanese Forces television network], Dr Ja'ja' said that he will support a president who considers preparing a plan for liberating the country, managing the various institutions, and confronting Syria. He stressed that a united Christian stand on this issue will be guaranteed. He also referred, in this connection, to coordination with the president of the Republic, Bkirki [seat of the Maronite Patriarchate], and all key figures.

Ja'ja' reiterated his proposal on establishing a federal system and on pursuing a neutral policy as a substitute for the 1943 formula, which he considered to be unsuitable. He expressed his belief that the 1943 formula is on its way to disappearing. He explained that if elected he will oppose the formula and will support unification.

Ja'ja' said that the military war has ended for the foreseeable future. He expected the formation of a transitional government, pointing out that it is not inevitable that the presidential elections will take place on schedule.

The Lebanese Forces commander said that Syria cannot stay in Lebanon forever, particularly if it will not be able to legalize its presence in and occupation of Lebanon. He pointed out that had it not been for the presence of the Lebanese Front, parties, and forces in the eastern areas, there would have been no resistance to the Syrian occupation in the other areas.

Dr Ja'ja' said that the abrogation of the tripartite agreement aborted the legality and constitutionality of the Syrian occupation. He explained that the purpose of that agreement was to establish a weak and breakable formula for internal rule, which would kindle the internal conflict and further increase the political, social, and economic problems. He added: Contrary to what some believe, the problems would have worsened on all levels because their solution would have been dependent on Syria. As a result, we would have lost our rights to the homeland, sovereignty, independence, and freedom.

Paqraduni Rules Out 'Syrian Solution'
NC151349 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Attorney Karim Paqraduni, deputy commander of the Lebanese Forces, has stressed that the 15 January movement was neither the beginning nor the end of the resistance. He said: We can declare today that there will be no Syrian solution to the Lebanese crisis. This movement, which began as a limited military operation against a certain political plan, is now the movement of an unlimited political plan.

Paqraduni added: The occupation, which is essentially illegal, can only be confronted with the logic of force. It is wrong to say that the solution begins with the disbanding of militias, which are an outcome of the occupation, not its cause.

Paqraduni stressed that the Lebanese Forces will not cease to function when the last Syrian and Israeli soldiers leave Lebanon. The Lebanese Forces will continue to function in order to build an indigenous force that will create a balance between Lebanon and Syria and between Lebanon and Israel.

He added that the Lebanese Forces are the solution and the knot. They are the solution because they can untie knots, and they are the knot because they can obstruct any solution.

Paqraduni, who was speaking during the Phalangist Party students' department celebration of the second anniversary of the 15 January movement, expressed the belief that Lebanese detente is not enough to bring about a solution because the Lebanese crisis has become linked to the Middle East crisis.

Report on Security Incidents in South
NC150954 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Our correspondent in the south has reported that Israeli enemy forces shelled the perimeters of Qabrikha and Al-Qantarah with phosphoric shells last night. Enemy military aircraft also carried out mock raids over the central section of southern Lebanon, firing a number of flares.

Persons arriving from the occupied border strip have reported that the occupation forces have established a new position on the heights of Markabah and equipped it with a number of tanks and field guns.

An armored Israeli force of 40 soldiers and five armored vehicles raided Kafr Hamam, which is under the control of the Norwegian UNIFIL contingent. The force declared a curfew in the village, searched several houses, and claimed that it had found 30 kg of TNT in one of them. Three citizens were arrested and taken to the Al-Khiyam prison.

At dawn today, the occupation forces fired dozens of flares over the liberated areas north of Hasbayya. This was followed by bursts of machinegun fire from the Zummaraya and 'Ayn Qinya positions toward the Wadi Mimis and 'Ayn Fujur areas, which lasted for about 1 hour.

Meanwhile, as an Israeli armored force was on patrol duty at dawn today on the road between Hasbayya and 'Ayn Qinya, one of the armored personnel carriers overturned, injuring four soldiers, one seriously. Subsequently, the occupation forces set up a roadblock on the 'Ayn Qinya-Zaghlah road and started checking the identities of people passing through. The roadblock was still there at 1030 today.

Also at dawn today, an agent militia patrol opened heavy-caliber machinegun fire at the outskirts of Al-Dallafah and Qilya in western Al-Biqa', damaging a number of houses. The Israeli forces on Al-Ahmadiyah hill last night fired dozens of flares over the buffer zone in western Al-Biqa'.

Lahd Speaks on Haddad's Death Anniversary

NC141242 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1100 GMT 14Jan 88

[Text] Speaking on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the death of Major Sa'd Haddad, South Lebanese Army [SLA] Commander Staff Major General Antoine Lahd emphasized that the march continues and that it will not stop until Lebanon returns to its south and the south to Lebanon, until security and peace are restored throughout the entire country.

Maj Gen Lahd pointed out that the late Maj Haddad had provided an example to be followed and a torch to illuminate the minds of all the Lebanese. Lahd added: He was a man of decision, a man of vision. He realized the importance and the need for an alliance with our Israeli neighbors, and he was foremost in extending the hand of cooperation to them in order to safeguard the Lebanese identity of the south against the criminal attempts of usurpation, and to defend the freedom of its people and the dignity of its sons.

Maj Gen Lahd emphasized that despite the difficulties it has confronted, the SLA has emerged stronger. Its morale is high, it remains steadfast in its positions and stands, and its faith in the rightness of its decision and the inevitability of agreement and good-neighborliness between the Lebanese and Israeli peoples stands firm.

Maj Gen Lahd said that since its military capability has been strengthened, it has become possible to pay more attention to living and social conditions, as well as to the fortification of the domestic front and the boosting of ties among the various communities, in order that genuine patriotism may expand to become a tree shading all of Lebanon, a flower scenting all its areas.

Candidates for 'Islamic Republic' Named

NC141806 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The Islamic Movement renewed its call today for electing a president of an Islamic republic in Lebanon. Leaflets were distributed nominating Shaykhs Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, Sa'id Sha'ban, and Sadiq al-Musawi.

'Exiling' of Palestinians Examined, Criticized

JN142013 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Palestine broadcast: "Talk of the Return"]

[Text] Brother strugglers, the Nazi Israeli occupation gangs yesterday exiled four Palestinian Arab citizens from the land of their forefathers. If it surprised anybody, the exiling did not surprise any Arab or anyone who knows Israel and Zionism. Yes, the Israeli crime of exiling the Palestinian Arab citizens is not surprising, despite everything. It is not surprising despite the world public opinion's campaign condemning Israel and despite the world public opinion's support for the Palestinian Arab people and sympathy with their struggle. It is not surprising despite the UN Security Council resolution and despite the visit of Marrack Goulding, the UN assistant secretary general, who was dispatched by the UN Security Council to the Zionist entity to stop the Israeli repression, headed by the crime of exiling Palestinian citizens from the land of their forefathers.

Now, what does all this mean? What is the meaning of Israel's disrespect for world public opinion and the UN Security Council and its resolutions? Is it mere disrespect? Is it an extreme Israeli stubbornness, expressed through exiling Palestinian Arab citizens and building a new Zionist settlement in occupied Arab territory? Is it U.S. support, or rather absolute U.S. backing for these Israeli crimes, despite hiding behind an untruthful, hypocritical reservation about these Israeli crimes? These possibilities regarding the Israeli disrespect for the international community and absolute U.S. support are only part of the truth and part of the answer.

The issue, which must be completely clear, is that the exile of individual Palestinian citizens is a miniature of the collective exile of the Palestinian Arab people. Individual and collective exile is a constant principle of Zionism as long as it exists—continual occupation and Judaization of all the territory claimed by Zionism as the historical land of Israel. This task can be completed by exiling all Palestinian or Arab citizens from the land, to create the possibility of Judaizing it if circumstances allow Israel to do so. This is a constant Zionist Israeli principle. When Israel exiles four Palestinian citizens, this does not mean that it is holding them responsible for the revolutionary uprising, which is an honor to them. In fact, exiling them is an exercise of a constant Israeli principle calling for emptying the Palestinian land of its Arab people. If Israel were to submit to international resolutions and back down from the crime of exiling, it would mean that Israel had backed down on a consant Zionist principle, whether it involves 4, 9, or 100 Palestinian citizens.

Thus the magnitude of the Israeli crime becomes clear. The exiling of four Palestinian citizens is an accurate implementation—albeit partially—of a constant Zionist principle, which is declared publicly by Rabbi Kahane, for example, and hidden by Shim'on Peres and some Israeli officials. Exiling Palestinian citizens represents Israel's insistence on exiling all the Palestinian people if Israel finds the appropriate circumstances. This dangerous fact makes it incumbent on the Arab nation to fight the exiling with all its resources. The popular Palestinian revolutionary uprising is also required to raise a new slogan, which is to prevent Israel from exiling Palestinian citizens. The Palestinian Arab citizens are the pillar safeguarding the Arabism of the Palestinian homeland. Israel must be prevented from removing the Palestinian homeland by removing Palestinian citizens from it. We always believe that our Palestinian people's revolution in the occupied homeland can prevent Israel from going ahead with the crime of uprooting the Palestinian Arab citizens from the land of their forefathers.

Press Views Terrorism, Israel, U.S. Attitude

JN141529 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline, "They Talk About Terrorism and Forget About Themselves," AL-BA'TH notes the following in today's editorial: Zionist circles in the U.S. State Department have once again dug out a worn propagandistic weapon designed to export a rejected tone about terrorism. This tone seeks to make hints about Syria, to create confusion, and to make false accusations. Over the past few days, these circles have helped the Israeli trumpets to propagate allegations against Syria on the pretext of growing Syrian strength and Syria's production of internationally banned chemical weapons.

It is no coincidence that such false campaigns are taking place at a time when the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories is escalating. The Zionist fingers in the U.S. Administration seek to divert attention from this increasing tide and to harm Syria, which is its major supporter, deliberately trying to avenge Syria's success in obtaining a UN resolution that supports leader Al-Asad's initiative to hold an international conference to define terrorism. Those in the U.S. State Department who talk about combating terrorism ignore the fact that directing such talk at Syria is a game that has been exposed. The world sees, hears, and knows well the place of real terrorism, which has become an official state policy in Israel. How can people believe the U.S. State Department's talk about terrorism and its eagerness to combat it when everyone knows that without growing U.S. encouragement, the Israelis could not have persisted in killings, massacres, and the pursuit of all kinds of oppression and persecution against the Palestinian Arab people, which are highlighted around the world by news media these days.

It is a strange contradiction for the one who supports terrorism to talk about combating it while continuing the game to divert people's attention from the source, place,

and real tools of terrorism, not only in this region but in numerous other areas around the world. Syria has said no to terrorism, not to obtain a good conduct certificate from those who are now boastfully talking about terrorism, but from a principled premise, a consistent stand, and a firm conviction. Those people are the ones who refrained from formulating a world definition of terrorism. This confirms their insistence on mixing cards, keeping matters unsettled, and raising the accusation of terrorism against any people who fight for their rights and land. Those in the U.S. Administration who have placed themselves in the service of Zionist goals should know that people are not a worthless surplus but the source of a militant capability that will not calm down until all their legitimate objectives are achieved. This is the law of this age, whether they accept it or not.

On the same topic, AL-THAWRAH asserts: Zionist terrorism is evident in all Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories. The Zionist terrorists daily perpetrate savage massacres against our people, who lack any kind of weapons except faith in their homeland and freedom. The U.S. timing does not seem removed from the kinfolk's uprising or the escalating terrorist Zionist practices, which attempt to quell this uprising. The entire world has condemned these practices and demanded that Israel be punished and deterred and that its practices against the defenseless Palestinian people be ended. Only the United States is silent about the Zionist terrorists and their inhuman practices.

The United States, which is responsible for all the terrorist Israeli practices through its support for the Zionist entity and its protection of it at international forums, needs to export its problem, which is manifested in the tarnishing of its ugly image before the world. Therefore, the United States resorts to a stupid hue and cry, something which the world sees in its true size and its real essence, which is hostile to the hopes and aspirations of all world peoples for liberation and freedom. Perhaps the United States seeks to create an atmosphere for the Zionist entity to launch an aggression against Syria using these exposed pretexts, which conflict with realities. However, the United States will not succeed in making Syria abandon its consistent pan-Arab stands supporting the Arab masses' struggle everywhere.

Paper Cited on Spread of Uprising to Egypt

JN131229 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 13 Jan 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Camp David and its Shackles," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: Our people's uprising in the occupied homeland has not only embarrassed the Egyptian regime, but also placed it at a serious impasse. This impasse is the expansion of the occupied homeland's uprising into the Egyptian streets, a demonstration expressing solidarity with the uprising and calling for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador from Cairo and the withdrawal of the Egyptian ambassador. In general, the Egyptian regime showed concern over the Egyptian citizens' action and calls for the abrogation of the Camp David accords. The repressive apparatus of this regime moved to besiege the Arab masses in Egypt. The Egyptian regime has also issued arbitrary decisions banning demonstrations in the streets, and arrested scores of Egyptian citizens who expressed solidarity with the occupied homeland's uprising.

AL-THAWRAH adds: It is not strange for the Egyptian regime to confront the Egyptian people's uprising, which expressed solidarity with the occupied homeland's uprising. The Egyptian people did so at a time when the whole world expressed support for our people's uprising and denounced the repressive practices of Zionism, which surpassed the bestial and terrorist Nazi measures and practices. It is also not strange that the Egyptian Government cooperates with the Zionist entity in repressing the popular uprising which spread from the occupied territory to Egypt. This stresses the need to save Egypt from the Camp David shackles and repercussions. The masses are determined to abrogate these accords and to restore Egypt to its pan-Arab role, away from the accords of humiliation and submission.

FRG Foreign Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN151316 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher arrived in Damascus at 1245 today on an official 2-day visit to Syria. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Yusuf Shakir, assistant foreign minister; Sulayman Haddah, Syrian ambassador in Bonn; Hisahm Kahhalah, director of the West Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry; 'Abd al-Hasib Ustuwani, director of the Foreign Ministry Protocol Department; 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, director of the Foreign Ministry Information Department; the FRG ambassador in Damascus; and the FRG Embassy staff.

Genscher made a statement to journalists upon his arrival. He said: It pleases me to once again visit the Syrian Arab Republic and to be given the opportunity to continue dialogue with this very important country. Relations between our two countries have old and good traditions. He added: We appreciate Syria's important role in the region under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership. Therefore, it is important at this particular time to exchange views as well as dialogue based on responsibility between the two parties.

Genscher explained that during this visit he will hold talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations, developments in the Middle East, and the Gulf war. Genscher is accompanied by a delegation comprising (Reinhard Schlagenvei), director of the FRG Foreign Ministry Political

Department; (Flagred Richar), director of the FRG Foreign Ministry Near East desk; (Helmut Yovom), assistant protocol director; and (Heinrich Horsten), an adviser at the FRG Foreign Ministry press desk.

Afghanistan

Najibullah on Soviet Withdrawal, Coalition

LD141759 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Kabul, 14 Jan (BAKHTAR)—Esteemed Najibullah, the Afghan president, granted an interview to Elizabeth Graham Wilmott [name as received] of THE WASHINGTON POST on 13 January and answered her questions.

The text of the interview follows:

Question: Mr Shevardnadze, the USSR minister of foreign affairs, came to Afghanistan last week and in the course of an interview announced that the Soviet forces will be withdrawn from Afghanistan by the end of 1988. I would like to know your views in this regard.

Answer: The Afghan side discussed this issue during the historical Grand Assembly of 29-30 November 1987, prior to the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze. This matter was reaffirmed with Mr Shevardnadze by the Afghan side during talks held in the course of his recent visit.

Question: Were there any points of controversy in these talks with Shevardnadze? What points were included in these discussions?

Answer: All topics in the talks and meetings were discussed in an atmosphere of mutual understanding, and common points of view existed on these topics. We had common views in connection with the solution of the situation around Afghanistan from the political viewpoint, as well as on the further consolidation of the friendly relations between the peoples and governments of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

We desire good relations and cooperation, and not only with the Soviet Union and the socialist countries. We also desire the expansion of relations with neighboring and Muslim countries, as well as with the capitalist countries of the West, including the United States. However, the road of friendship is not one way. Whatever depends on us, we have traveled our half of the way. All our measures are based on new thinking, and we want the solution of questions through dialogue, not through military means.

Question: It has been said outside Afghanistan that if the Soviet forces leave the country, there will be a bloodbath. Are you capable of controlling the situation?

Answer: Let us together rescue those persons and circles in the West from such fantasies. I tell you categorically that if foreign and armed interference in the internal affairs of our country ceases, our people and our Armed Forces are capable of reliably defending themselves and their territorial integrity and the independence of their country. The United States has announced that it will cease the supply of weapons. It would be better if the truth of what it says is proved by actions.

Question: What part of the country is under state control?

Answer: All provincial capitals and major districts, all 45 cities, 214 districts, and 55 percent of all villages.

Question: PRAVDA has declared that Soviet troops will start to withdraw from Afghanistan on 1 May. Is it true?

Answer: The stance of the Afghan side will be revealed in the Geneva talks, which will begin soon. I once again insist that the return of the limited contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan to their peace-loving country will accelerate provided foreign interference ceases, a guarantee of its nonresumption is given, and the ceasefire brings about the cessation of armed clashes.

Question: Do you expect the opposition to attack the PDPA forces?

Answer: If the opposition does not agree to talks and dialogue to attain peace, and if they do not favor an agreement, then they will be isolated from the people of Afghanistan, and even their own ranks, and will remain aloof from the natural advance of events in Afghanistan.

Question: Are you in touch with them overtly or covertly?

Answer: So far not directly.

Question: Indirectly? In what way?

Answer: Yes. [as received]

Question: With whom?

Answer: It is a secret, and should remain secret.

Question: I have heard that you are proposing a time span of 10 months for the withdrawal of the Soviet forces.

Answer: We put forward a formula for the withdrawal of the contingents. You as a journalist know its meaning.

Question: (?I would like to) know your opinion about the basis of a national coalition.

Answer: I have said that a national coalition is based on the greater participation of all political forces of our society. However, the participation of a national coalition in power is not a mechanical matter. It will be based on the proportion of the participation and the area of influence of the coalition forces. In addition to the many concessions we have made to the opposite side, we are ready to talk to them about all matters.

Question: It is believed that the opposition forces have turned down your proposals. I would like to know your opinion in this regard.

Answer: By opposition forces, we do not mean only the heads of seven groups, because our opponents have much larger bases than those who have rejected our proposals. In our view, the opposite side includes secondary commanders, all refugees, the heads of armed opposition groups inside the country, moderate groups, and social and national personalities inside and outside the country.

Question: What role do you envisage for the former king?

Answer: He can play a meritorious role in the restoration of peace and ensuring national reconciliation in the country. He mentioned this in his recent interview with a French journalist. In accordance with the role he could play in maintaining peace in the country, he would have a suitable position.

Question: Can the ex-king assume the leadership of a coalition?

Answer: Such matters can be resolved if we sit at the negotiating table.

Question: I would like you to talk about the outcome of your talks with Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

Answer: I can mention the friendship and cooperation of our countries, bearing in mind India's importance in the process of restoring peace and settling the situation around Afghanistan. Moreover, the establishment of further economic, social, scientific, and cultural relations were also discussed during our talks.

Politburo Studies Illiteracy Work, Press Center
LD142108 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] A periodic session of the Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee was held today. In order to publicize the national reconciliation policy in the international arena and to inform the writers and other cultural personalities of the various countries about the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan, the Politburo has decided that a session of the secretariat of the Asia-Africa Writers Society and the international symposium of writers in connection with the national reconciliation should be held in Dalw 1366 [21 January-19 February 1988] in Kabul. Well-known writers from those countries which are pursuing the national reconciliation policy will participate. In addition, an international poetry festival will be held under the slogan "Life, peace, and reconciliation."

The Politburo also assessed the issue of the cotton growers assembly and decided that in order to take measures to improve cotton planting and harvesting and to raise the economic level of peasants, including the country's cotton growers, a national assembly of cotton growers should be held in Dalw 1366.

The Politburo studied the issue of taking extra measures to eliminate illiteracy in the Republic of Afghanistan. It pointed out that as an urgent national task, the campaign against illiteracy not only enjoys social and cultural importance but also political importance. Certain positive results have been achieved in this sphere in the country.

During the years since the April Revolution, 1.8 million people have graduated from literacy courses. During the current year, 516,000 students have been organized in 25,000 literacy courses, among which [figure indistinct] are young children not covered by schools. The people and illiterate peasants have been attracted to the literacy courses. The number of literacy courses, vital literacy schools, and literacy courses on homes and village improvement, in which the literacy students learn professional experiences and other professions, is increasing. Specific measures to improve the quality of the texts and teaching materials have been put into practice. Special attention has been paid to promoting literacy in the Armed Forces.

The Politburo, having assessed as positive the work which has been done, pointed out that there are still serious weaknesses and shortcomings in the campaign against illiteracy. The Politburo advised that the concerned bodies take serious measures to remove the shortcomings and accelerate the campaign against illiteracy.

The Politburo also assessed the rendering of comprehensive assistance to Jowzjan Province. It pointed out that, taking into account the fact that the party and state bodies and work collectives in Jowzjan Province have recently achieved certain results toward consolidating state power and resolving social and economic issues, it is necessary to render such comprehensive cooperation to Jowzjan Province. This will help to raise the level of discipline and control by party and state bodies and increase their effective utilization of the province's economic and natural resources. It will help the effectiveness of the work of the economic establishment to resolve the important work issues and people's livelihood, to aid in the successful implementation of the decisions of the second PDPA national conference, and to accelerate the national reconciliation policy. The Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee approved a resolution in this regard.

The Politburo approved a DYOA proposal to hold the general session of the information center of Asian students in Kabul, a seminar entitled "Training and Education, Development and Society," and a consultative

meeting for the 13th international festival of youths and students. It decided that the session should be held in Kabul in order to expand and strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation between the DYOA and youth and student organizations of the nonaligned, Muslim, and neighboring countries in the interests of peace and security and mutual understanding of the new generation of Asia-Pacific peoples. It should further familize the representatives of these organizations with the ways of implementing the national reconciliation policy in the Republic of Afghanistan.

The Politburo discussed the measures for mounting a worthy celebration of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution. It pointed out that with the victory of the April Revolution, which took place with the decisive support of the toilers of the country and with the participation of patriotic soldiers and officers, the history of the country has entered a new stage. The 10th anniversary of the April Revolution is being celebrated at a time when the national reconciliation policy is being implemented, a policy which manifests the interests of the people and homeland and which enjoys the people's support.

The celebration of the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution should be transformed into a popular festival and powerful [word indistinct] to carry out work with energy in all directions to successfully implement the national reconciliation policy. The Politburo approved a resolution for celebrating the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution in a worthy manner.

In order to organize orderly and fruitful work with foreign journalists and purposely reflect the facts connected with our country and the national reconciliation policy, the Politburo also decided that a press center should be created next to the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan to receive foreign journalists.

The Politburo assessed the issue of organizing direct cooperation between state establishments and offices and villages. Having evaluated the primary results of direct cooperation between city productive collectives and toilers of the villages, it pointed out that despite the fact that this system, as a new form of mutual economic relations, is being established for the first time in our country's history, as many as 44 villages in 9 of the country's provinces have now come under the guardianship of 24 vanguard productive collectives, which have played a positive role in [word indistinct] the economic and social problems of the villages.

These relations are an important political initiative which is significant to our revolution and the national reconciliation policy, and they should develop and expand. The Politburo approved a resolution in this regard.

The Politburo of the PDPA Central Committee also assessed a number of other domestic and international issues.

Repair Work, Supply Distribution in Khowst

LD142154 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Since the arrival of supply convoys to Khowst major district, over 11,000 tonnes of foodstuffs and commodities have been distributed to 2,100 families, consisting of 21,000 persons residing in 115 villages, the district's capital, two districts, and five subdistricts of this major district.

The BIA correspondent reports from Khowst city that after the arrival of 15 supply convoys—carrying over 18,630 tonnes of supplies to Khowst major district—the needs of the people, from the viewpoint of foodstuffs and other consumables, has been net [words indistinct].

In addition to the distribution of the above goods, work has begun on the installation of 21 water-pumps, received as part of the assistance granted by the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan. When the pumps are installed, the problem of water shortages on 2,400 jeribs of peasant land in this district will be solved. BIA adds that the work on reopening four medical centers in the districts and subdistricts of this major district has begun. After the arrival of building materials such as cement, reinforcement rods, and corrugated steel sheets, construction and building work has begun in this major district. The workers are taking advantage of good weather in Khowst. So far, 47 km of road has been repaired, and 96 km of road along the Gardeyz-Khowst highway has been repaired and leveled. Over 7,600 meters of aquaducts are being built.

The distribution of foodstuffs and commodities and work to repair roads in this major district are continuing.

Extremist Group Crushed in Samangan Province

LD141749 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] An armed group that had intended to disrupt the peaceful life of the people of Kohneh and Khowaja Sabzpush villages, Samangan Province, was crushed yesterday with the direct cooperation of the people.

According to a BIA correspondent, the people of these villages reported to the province's national reconciliation commission the existence of an extremist group and asked the security forces to prevent the group from perpetrating any crimes.

As requested by the national reconciliation commission and people, the security forces, observing the terms of the cease-fire, entered these villages and asked the extremist group to lay down its weapons. However, the extremist group rejected this demand and fired on the

security forces. The security forces retaliated and as a result this group—including their ringleader Abdul Bashir—were crushed. Four weapons and a quantity of ammunition and hand grenades were seized by the security forces.

Bangladesh

Schedule Revised for Local Elections

BK141554 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The Election Commission has announced a revised schedule for the ensuing union parishads [councils] polls of the country.

According to the announcement, polls for the ensuing general elections to all the union parishads of the country shall now be held in 1 day only, on Wednesday the 10th of February next. Earlier it was scheduled to be held from the 10th to the 17th of next month.

India

Cambodian Prime Minister Arrives in Calcutta

BK130310 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Jan 88

[Text] The Cambodian prime minister, Mr Hun Sen, says that he proposes to hold the next round of talks with Prince Norodom Sihanouk next week.

Mr Hun Sen, who arrived in Calcutta from Hanoi, told newsmen at the airport that his talks with Prince Sihanouk are proceeding well. Replying to questions, he denounced the American decision to supply arms to Pakistan. He said this will create tension in the region.

Holds Talks With Natwar Singh

BK141524 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1439 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Natwar Singh, minister of state for external affairs, called on Hun Sen, Kampuchean prime minister today (Jan 14). The talks between them lasted 1 and 1/2 hours. The Kampuchean prime minister was assisted by the Kampuchean vice foreign minister, Dit Munti, and the minister of state was assisted by A.B. Gokhale, secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.

Discusses Cambodia With Gandhi

BK141618 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] The Cambodian prime minister, Mr Hun Sen, has had a meeting with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, in New Delhi. They were together for about 75 minutes. Bilateral relations, the situation in Southeast Asia, and efforts to find a solution to the Cambodian issue figured in the talks.

Mr Gandhi hosted a lunch in honor of Mr Hun Sen who is leaving for Paris tonight.

The Cambodian leader will have discussions in Paris with Prince Norodom Sihanouk in a bid to resolve the Cambodian issue.

Spokesman Condemns LTTE Murder of Sri Lankan

BK141509 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] India strongly condemned the LTTE for its brutal murder of the president of the Citizens Council of Kondavil, Mr A. Ratnam, in Jaffna yesterday. An official spokesman said in New Delhi today that this is yet another manifestation of the scant regard and respect that LTTE has for the welfare of Tamils in Sri Lanka. The spokesman pointed out that in keeping with this approach of intimidating people with force of arms, the LTTE in the recent past attacked innocent and nonpolitical Tamils like Sam, Thambi, Mutthu of the Citizens Council in Batticaloa. The spokesman regretted that in recent days the LTTE has been carrying out a campaign of intimidation and threat directed against the Tamil people of Northern and Eastern Provinces.

In Colombo, the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit, called on the Sri Lankan president yesterday to brief him about India's assessment of the developing political situation in the north and east of Sri Lanka. Mr Dixit told Mr Jayewardene that the peacekeeping force will continue its operations till the LTTE falls in line with the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement. Meanwhile, the AIR Colombo correspondent who visited Jaffna today found the town bazaar and main bus stand busy with a large number of people moving about freely and shopping on the eve of the harvest festival Thai Pongal.

Policeman, Wife Killed by Sikh 'Terrorists'

BK150500 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, a police inspector and his wife were shot dead by terrorists in Amritsar city this morning. The terrorists entered C.I.D. [Crime Investigation Department] Inspector Premnath's house in Hatikpura Mohalla of the city and gunned down the couple.

Last night a shopkeeper was killed in Tikkapur village in Amritsar District and another person was seriously injured near Amritsar city.

More Killed in Punjab

BK150804 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] In Punjab, 11 persons including 8 of a family have been killed in separate incidents of terrorist activity since last night. In Gurdaspur District, terrorists shot

dead a farmer, Shankar Singh, and seven members of his family in (Gandiala Nazer) near Batala last night. The victims included three brothers of Shankar Singh and his mother.

In Amritsar city, an inspector of police, Premnath, and his wife were gunned down by terrorists this morning. They were attacked in their house. In another incident in Amrtisar District, a shopkeeper was shot dead in village Tikkapur under Mehta police station.

Gurkha Activist Killed; 44 Arrested in Bengal
BK150919 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] In West Bengal, 44 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists have been arrested during a series of police raids in the Kurseong and Kalimpong divisions of the Darjeeling District.

At Kurseong, one GNLF activist was killed and five persons, including four policemen, were injured in an exchange of fire this morning. A large quantity of arms and gun-making material were also recovered during the raids.

Japanese CP Official Arrives in New Delhi
OW150603 Tokyo KYODO in English 0335 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] New Delhi, Jan. 15 KYODO—Japan Communist Party Vice Chairman Tetsuzo Fuwa arrived here late Thursday night for a visit to India.

Fuwa, accompanied by three other party members, flew into New Delhi at the invitation of the Indian Communist Party (CPI-M).

Before his return to Japan on January 26 he will also visit Denmark.

Iran

Majlis Speaker Delivers Friday Prayers Sermon
LD151244 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Friday prayer centers throughout the country today were the scene of a massive and solid presence of Iran's monotheistic people. The divine-political Friday prayer ceremonies in Tehran were held under the leadership of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani at Tehran University and in the surrounding streets, with the participation of the Hezbollah ummah.

In his prayer sermons, the Majlis speaker analysed the extent of the prerogatives of an Islamic government and rule by a jurisconsult and responded to the incorrect propaganda and interpretations of Western mass media in this respect. He said: The Western world, which is sensitive to issues relating to Iran, has been unable to comprehend the depth of the imam's message because it does not understand Islamic culture. They do not realize that Islam is a comprehensive religion and encompasses everything; that is, all of society's needs at all times are included in that ideology. Needs are met in such a way that they can only be implemented by knowledgeable people. In fact, under an Islamic government, all regulations for imposing restrictions on people are for the benefit of the people themselves.

The speaker of the Majlis added: Life under Islam is a democratic one, and any activity based on public opinion is manifested in elections. Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed: His eminence the imam in these messages is expressing the truth about rule by jurisconsult and the rule of Islam. The imam has never intended to blame or weaken a particular individual or institution. He never wishes one individual or institution to be favored over others.

The speaker added: All of us officials are subordinate to the imam. We emphasize that the entire order of the Islamic Republic will continue with the permission of rule by jurisconsult. Moreover, we realize that the path for the administration of all humanity lies in this very path and nothing else.

The imam's representative on the Supreme Defence Council then referred to the victories of the fighters of Islam in the "Zafar-5" offensive. Noting the sensitivity of the region and the weakness of Baghdad's regime in this offensive, he said: With our fighters' victory 200 kms inside Iraq, all of Iraq's provinces from Dahuk to Al-Faw are now exposed to extensive attacks by our forces.

Addressing the countries of the southern Persian Gulf and supporters of the Iraqi regime, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani asserted: Our forces are still waiting with patience and endurance for the world to give them their due. Now, with complete preparedness and with their fingers on the triggers of their weapons, they are waiting to receive their rightful due from Iraq's aggressor regime. We warn you, before it is too late, to come to the side of justice and to refrain from resorting to the assistance of the United States and foreign powers. If you hear martial music tomorrow from the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, know that regret will no longer serve any purpose.

In connection with the 10 days of Helpers of the Fighters and the need for widespread efforts by sections of the nation to look after the families of the fighters of Islam, the imam's representative on the Supreme Defence Council said: Now that our fighters are present at the fronts in order to attain the human and Islamic rights of the Iranian nation, it is incumbent on us to meet the needs of these dear ones' families in any way we can.

Referring to the issue of the elections and the need for maintaining piety in this respect, both on the part of the candidates and that of the voters, the Majlis speaker stressed: The elections must be held in an Islamic and healthy atmosphere so that the morale of the fighters of Islam at the fronts is not harmed.

Continuing his remarks, the representative of the imam on the Supreme Defence Council noted the proud movement of Palestine's Muslim people in their resistance to the Jerusalem-occupying regime and said: This movement has created a suitable wave in the world. As they have chosen the Islamic path, the Muslim fighter is not afraid of martyrdom or of being killed. It seems that the Palestinian fighters have learned this path either from the Islamic Revolution of Iran or from the people of southern Lebanon. God willing, this fighting nation of Palestine and Lebanon will one day uproot arrogance in the region.

Rafiqdust on Chemical Weapons, Arms Capability
LD141745 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 14 Jan 88

["IRGC Min. Warns Iraq of Dire Consequences on Repeated Use of Chemical Arms"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—If the Iraqi regime deploys chemical weapons either against the Muslim combatants or Iranian civilians the Islamic Republic would be forced to resort to chemical warfare against enemy forces, said Minister of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqust here Thursday. Iran has a high capability for producing these arms, he added.

Rafiqust addressing a press conference said that in future operations the artillery power of the Muslim combatants will be exacerbated [as received] by three to five times considering the mass production of arms and ammunition in Iran.

He said that Iran has enough arms, ammunition and manpower at its disposal to continue the sacred defence against the enemy.

Plans to launch chain operations throughout the war fronts have been reviewed and will be implemented at an appropriate time, said the IRGC minister adding, the sagging Iraqi Ba'thist war machine will be soon put out of action.

On the ongoing Zafar-5 operations 200 kms inside northern Iraq, he said that Muslim combatants have captured several enemy bases, including the Iraqi town of Dayr Luk, in Dahuk Province, and that some 450 odd enemy POWS have been shifted behind frontlines.

Rafiqdust disclosed, "We are producing more destructive anti-tank and anti-armored equipment than ever before."

He said that Iran's defensive war will continue "step by step, until our objective to overthrow the criminal Saddam (Husayn) regime is realized."

Notes New Aircraft Production
LD142123 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpts] Concurrent with the first anniversary of the "Karbala-5" operations, IRGC Minister Rafiqdust participated in a televised press conference this evening. [passage omitted]

The IRGC minister, noting the self-sufficiency of the IRGC with regard to armaments and the production of advanced weaponry, stated: God willing, an aircraft built by the IRGC will fly during the 10 Days of Dawn ceremonies [beginning 1 February 1988]. Other versions of this aircraft will be completed and in production by 1367 [year beginning 21 March 1988].

The production plant for our advanced missiles will soon be inspected by a high-ranking official of our country.

IRGC Minister Receives Libyan Envoy 14 Jan
LD151040 Tripoli JANA in English 0840 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Ayn al-Nar [January] 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—"Mohsen Rafiqdust" the minister of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Corps saluted the people of Great Jamahiriyah and its leader for their brave and firm confrontation of the failed U.S.-NATO barbarous aggression against the people of Great Jamahiriyah.

On receiving the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Tehran yesterday morning, he said that America had failed completely in its brutal savage aggression against the people of Great Jamahiriyah.

The Iranian minister appreciated the role of the people of Great Jamahiriyah in the victory of the Iranian people's revolution saying: "We still remember the Libyan Arab people's support for the Iranian people before the revolution's victory".

He hailed the brave confrontation by the people of Great Jamahiriyah in the face of colonial-imperialist challenge saying: "Jamahiriyah's people had foiled all U.S. imperialist plots".

He stressed upon the revolutionary solidarity of principle between both Great Jamahiriyah's people and the people of Iran.

Algerian Trade Official Continues Visit

Meets With Velayati

LD141527 Tehran IRNA in English 1515 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati stressed the need for further expansion of Tehran-Algiers economic and political cooperation, during a meeting with visiting Algerian Deputy Commerce Minister Mourad Medelci, here Thursday.

Said the Algerian official in reply, "what I have seen during my visit to Tehran is undoubtedly a minor part of the Islamic Republic's great advances."

Constant efforts should be made for promotion of relations between Iran and Algeria in various fields, especially in economic and industrial areas, he added.

Medelci also extended an invitation to Velayati on behalf of Algerian Foreign Minister Taleb Ibrahimi, to visit Algiers.

The current visit of the Algerian delegation follows the holding of the first session of Tehran-Algiers joint commission recently in the Algerian capital.

Meanwhile, Medelci also conferred with Minister of Mines and Metals Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi earlier today, on expansion of mutual technical, industrial and trade cooperation.

Commercial Agreement Signed

LD141859 Tehran IRNA in English 1839 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 14, IRNA—An agreement on Iran-Algeria eco-commercial cooperation for 1988, was signed by visiting Algerian Deputy Commerce Minister Mourad Medelci and Deputy Minister of Heavy Industries Hasan Ramazanian-Pur here Thursday.

In an interview with IRNA after signing the agreement, Medelci described the outcome of his visit as "fruitful". The agreement will guarantee expansion of Tehran-Algiers economic ties, he added.

Medelci terming the agreement as a practical realization of last year's eco-commercial accord, said the new agreement besides promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of oil industry, gas and mines, envisages exchange of goods.

The Algerian deputy commerce minister, termed the prospects of Tehran-Algerian economic ties "bright", and said that during his visit he reached basic agreements with Iranian officials on further consolidation of mutual eco-commercial ties.

Volume of trade exchanges between Iran and Algeria for the current Christian year (1988) is expected to reach $160 million, said Medelci noting, the figure might be increased.

In response, Ramazanian-Pur said that the agreement signed by him and Medelci also predicts a joint Tehran-Algiers bank account which, he said, would facilitate mutual commercial affairs.

In the near future, he said, Iran will export concentrated zinc, cement, ballbearings and landrover cars to Algeria in return for textiles, aluminium plates, chemicals and some other commodities from that country.

CIA Officials Reportedly Attacked in Egypt

NC130834 Tehran International Service in Turkish 1700 GMT 10 Jan 88

[Text] JANA, the official Libyan news agency, reports that the Egyptian city of Alexandria has been the scene of the third action against U.S. interests within a period of less than 3 weeks. According to eyewitness accounts, a car with diplomatic plates, which was carrying a number of CIA officials, was attacked with firearms in one of the streets of Alexandria last Friday night [8 January]. A loud explosion was heard after the attack.

The Cairo regime has not made any comment on the condition of the Americans riding in the car.

Anti-Narcotics Operation Near Turkish Border

LD151046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] In order to combat narcotics and foreign currency smuggling, six new bases of the Islamic Revolution Committees will be set up in the Iran-Turkey border region.

According to the Central News Unit, a spokesman of the Azarbayjan Bakhtiari Province Islamic Revolution Committees has announced this news, adding: As the maintenance of security in nomadic areas has also been entrusted to the Islamic Revolution Committees, a plan for tribal security will soon be implemented in areas of the Azarbayjan Bakhtiari Province.

Iraqi Counteroffensive Repelled in 'Zafar-5'

LD141715 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] In the wake of completely repelling the fifth counteroffensive by the Zionist enemy in the "Zafar-5" operational region, hundreds more Ba'thist forces were killed and wounded and dozens have been captured by Islamic forces.

According to a report from Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters, the Islamic fighters, assisted by the Peshmerga of the Kurdish Democratic Party of Iraq, beat off the

fifth enemy counteroffensive in the course of their advance along the Dayr Luk-al-'Amadiyah axis and have taken up positions 4 km from Al-'Amadiyah. The latest reports indicate that a fierce battle is raging, with the Islamic fighters attaining complete supremacy in the region. So far, heavy losses and casualties have been inflicted on the Zionist enemy.

Pakistan

Spokesman on India's Nuclear Subs, Afghanistan

BK141619 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Pakistan has expressed concern about India's acquisition of nuclear submarines and other sophisticated weapons. A Foreign Office spokesman told newsmen in Islamabad today that the acquisition of nuclear submarines by India reveals New Delhi's large-scale military preparations for which it has been acquiring missiles, aircraft, artillery, tanks, and warships. This also reflects India's desire to project its power and influence beyond its frontiers, which is incompatible with the idea of keeping the Indian Ocean free from nuclear weapons. The spokesman said that the large-scale buildup in India's military strength, which is much more than its legitimate defense requirements, is naturally causing concern in neighboring countries.

The spokesman added that the Soviet decision to supply nuclear submarines to India is equally regrettable. These submarines are in addition to the offensive weapons that have been provided to India by the Soviet Union in past years. This unbalanced policy has heightened the threat to other South Asian countries and betrays an extraordinary disregard for the imperatives of peace and security in this region. He stated that the international community has the right to expect the superpowers to display a greater sense of responsibility.

Commenting on the report carried by foreign media quoting Indian sources, the spokesman said that no clash or serious exchange of fire has taken place in the Siachen area or along the line of control in Jammu and Kashmir in the last few days. Whatever was said by India's new general officer commanding in chief about the area is nothing but a gross exaggeration. The spokesman affirmed that Pakistan has not received any suggestions from India for a meeting of commanders, which is held following such incidents.

Responding to a question, the spokesman disclosed that India and Pakistan are in constant touch about the meeting between the two countries' foreign secretaries, and that they have agreed that the two foreign secretaries will hold their meeting as soon as preparations are completed. He said no date has been fixed yet for the meeting between the two countries' defense secretaries.

Pakistan will cooperate fully with Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, who is arriving in Islamabad on 20 January. A Foreign Office spokesman said today in Islamabad that Pakistan is very seriously pursuing the preparations for his visit. It is prepared to play its role in connection with the issues related to this problem.

Replying to a question about the formation of a future government in Afghanistan, the spokesman said that Pakistan fully supports this proposal—endorsed by the international community nine times since 1980—which says that it is the right of the Afghan people to determine their own political system without any outside pressure.

The spokesman asserted that Pakistan hopes that the next round of Geneva negotiations will prove successful in connection with a political settlement of the Afghan problem.

Regarding Pakistan's relations with Saudi Arabia, the spokesman stated that these ties are based, as ever, on close, cordial, and friendly cooperation. He noted that a recent visit to Saudi Arabia had provided Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo with an opportunity to exchange views at the highest level.

Quake Hits Peshawar 14 Jan; No Casualties Noted

BK141512 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 14 (AFP)—An earthquake measuring five on the Richter scale rocked the northwestern city of Peshawar Thursday, officials said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The epicentre of the tremor, recorded at 2:23 a.m. Thursday (2123 GMT Wednesday) was located about 300 kilometres (180 miles) north of Peshawar in the Hindu Kush range, the Meteorological Department said.

The quake lasted a few seconds and official sources said there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

An earthquake measuring five on the Richter scale can cause considerable damage.

Sri Lanka

4 Indian Soldiers Convicted of Rape, Jailed

BK141412 Hong Kong AFP in English 1342 GMT 14 Jan 88

[Excerpt] Jaffna Fort, Sri Lanka, Jan 14 (AFP)—Four Indian soldiers have been sent back to India and jailed after they were convicted of raping Sri Lankan women on the island's northern Jaffna Peninsula, an Indian officer said Thursday.

The commandant of Jaffna town, Brigadier R.I.S. Kahlon, said the offenders were sent back to India and sentenced to terms ranging from one year to life imprisonment. All were dismissed from the Armed Forces.

"The Indian Army are not angels. But they are not devils either. There are rascals in any army," Brig. Kahlon told reporters at this 16th century Dutch-built fort.

His statement was the first Indian admission that Indian troops were involved in such incidents since India launched an offensive on October 10 to disarm Sri Lanka's dominant Tamil militant group.

Indian officials had persistently denied reports of molestation of women by Indian troops in Sri Lanka's troubled Eastern and Northern Provinces.

"We realised that this menace (of rape) could grow if unchecked. I have punished the four men as harshly as possible. Just be convinced of our intentions. We are honourable," the brigadier said. [passage omitted]

Terrorism Roundup Notes Ammunition Dump Raids
BK150845 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0802 GMT 15 Jan 88

[Text] Colombo, Jan 15 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Indian peacekeeping force (IPKF) continued its raids on LTTE ammunition dumps in Jaffna yesterday and seized over 13,000 rounds of ammunition.

Official sources told LANKA PUWATH that following information received from the public the IPKF had carried out a series of raids in the Chavakachcheri area and seized 8500 rounds of AK-47 ammunition, 4600 rounds of 7.62 ammunition and 16 rocket-propelled grenades.

Indian troops also apprehended at the new market Jaffna a terrorist who was transporting 40 rounds of 9mm ammunition on a bicycle.

The IPKF also captured five LTTE terrorists in the Jaffna Peninsula.

Official sources said that 25 kilograms of explosives and 2 claymore mines were seized from the LTTE at Kankesanthurai.